GOKULAM

Rs.6/-
DECEMBER 2002

The monthly magazine for children

PUZZLE

SPOT THE CURRENCIES OF ...

A	N	Z	Y	B	J	A	K	L	M	A
G	H	J	Q	U	E	F	R	P	E	B
O	N	A	T	P	U	G	R	A	M	C
X	T	E	D	I	R	H	A	M	N	D
W	X	Y	Z	N	O	A	P	Q	R	E
A	M	A	N	T	R	N	I	D	U	F
N	I	J	K	L	M	I	N	O	P	G
M	G	U	L	T	I	A	L	E	E	I
Y	U	A	N	M	A	R	P	L	E	J
Y	M	U	R	T	N	I	A	A	Q	J
E	T	U	P	T	K	A	Q	R	M	O
N	P	N	A	G	U	L	T	R	U	M

1. Afghanisthan
2. Germany
3. United Arab Emirates
4. South Korea
5. China
6. Japan
7. Vatican City
8. Srilanka / India
9. Iran
10. Bhutan

- Archana Natarajan, Std. X, Kerala Samajam Model School, Jamshedpur.

ANSWERS :

A	N	Z	Y	B	J	A	K	L	M	A
G	H	J	Q	U	E	F	R	P	E	B
O	N	A	T	P	U	G	R	A	M	C
X	T	E	D	I	R	H	A	M	N	D
W	X	Y	Z	N	O	A	P	Q	R	E
A	M	A	N	T	R	N	I	D	U	F
N	I	J	K	L	M	I	N	O	P	G
M	G	U	L	T	I	A	L	E	E	I
Y	U	A	N	M	A	R	P	L	E	J
Y	M	U	R	T	N	I	A	A	Q	J
E	T	U	P	T	K	A	Q	R	M	O
N	P	N	A	G	U	L	T	R	U	M

1. Afghani
2. Euro
3. Dirham
4. Wan
5. Yuan
6. Yen
7. Lira
8. Rupee
9. Rial
10. Ngultrum

GOKULAM-BSA

69

QUIZ TIME

A report on the quiz programmes conducted in schools of Chennai.

ENTERTAINING INNOVATIVE EDUCATIVE

42, 43

GREETING CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

- cut along the dotted lines
- write down your message at the back
- insert into an envelope
- affix the postage stamp
- address it and
- mail it to your best friend

ATTRACTIVE
EXCLUSIVE
FRIENDLY

2 to 14

Cover Illustration : Shyam

MERRY CHRISTMAS

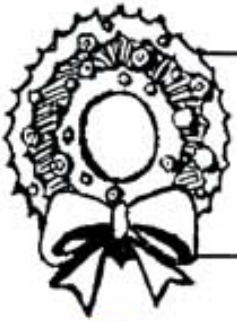
Stories, articles, poems, puzzles, snippets from our readers...
The pages that follow ...

FESTIVE
SPECIAL
INFORMATIVE

GOKULAM
Vol. XV, No.6

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children. — William Canton

E-mails :
Editorial : gokulam@kalkiweekly.com
Subscriptions : subscription@kalkiweekly.com
Other information : info@kalkiweekly.com



STORY

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF

Standing outside the school chapel on the last day of the half-yearly exam, with a bar of chocolate in my hand, I was thinking of Christmas and the days of fun and frolic that were ahead.

That's when it all happened - within a fraction of a second. WHAM! The bar of chocolate was knocked out of my hand. I turned around to see the big bully Bretto standing with his arms on his hip. His gang was with him too.

"Ha! Ha! There's many a slip between the cup and the lip..." The boys broke into laughter.

I could see the statue of Jesus on the cross through the chapel window. The anger within me vanished. I began to walk towards home. Turning around, I wished the boys. "Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all."

As I entered home, I heard my father call out to me. "Eisen, don't forget your rehearsals for carol singing and the prayer meeting that follows at the church."

"I won't dad."

That evening, I was on my way to the rehearsal. Just as I turned the corner of my street, I saw a big thug hitting a boy. A few other boys were running away from the scene. As I ran closer, the thug jumped over a nearby wall and disappeared. The person he had hit was lying on the ground, badly hurt and bleeding. I bent down to take a closer look. To my horror, it was Bretto.

In a few minutes, I was at Dr. Vijay's clinic. The doctor was my father's friend. I knew him well.

"Good you brought him by auto.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

X-Mas is a time for joy and fun. But where does Christmas stand without any cards! Sending cards has become a fashion now. But did you know that Sir Henry Cole developed this idea, in 1853? During Christmas that year, he was too busy to write to all his friends. So, he asked an artist to design a card,

You have come in at the right time," said Dr. Vijay as he gave Bretto an injection and bandaged the wounds. "If he had lost more blood, it could have been dangerous."

When Bretto opened his eyes, I noticed they were filled with tears. He looked at me and said, "I feel ashamed of myself Eisen, really ashamed."

I went closer to Bretto. I placed my hand gently on his forehead and said "Never mind Bretto. Do not speak. You need to rest."

"Eisen, you can take Bretto back now. Drop him off at his place and then you can go home. Here's some money for the auto" said Dr. Vijay after an hour or so had passed.

When I entered my house, I found my father in a bad temper. "Where have you been all this time? I called the Priest and he said you had not turned up for the prayer..."

The telephone rang cutting him short. "Oh! Tell me Dr. Vijay..."

I felt relieved. Dr. Vijay would now give the explanations.

I could see the change of expression on my father's face. He was not angry any more. He smiled. He looked happy. He placed the receiver down and turned towards me with outstretched hands. He gave me a big hug. "I feel proud of you my son."

"I am sorry I could not go to the prayer meeting Dad."

"The good deed you have done is a lot better than any prayer."

- J. Disney, Chennai.

---

with a picture on the front, for him.

The first Christmas card had a picture of a family eating a meal together.

- Ankitha R. Kartha, Std. VIII, I.E.S. Public School, Chittilapally, Kerala.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

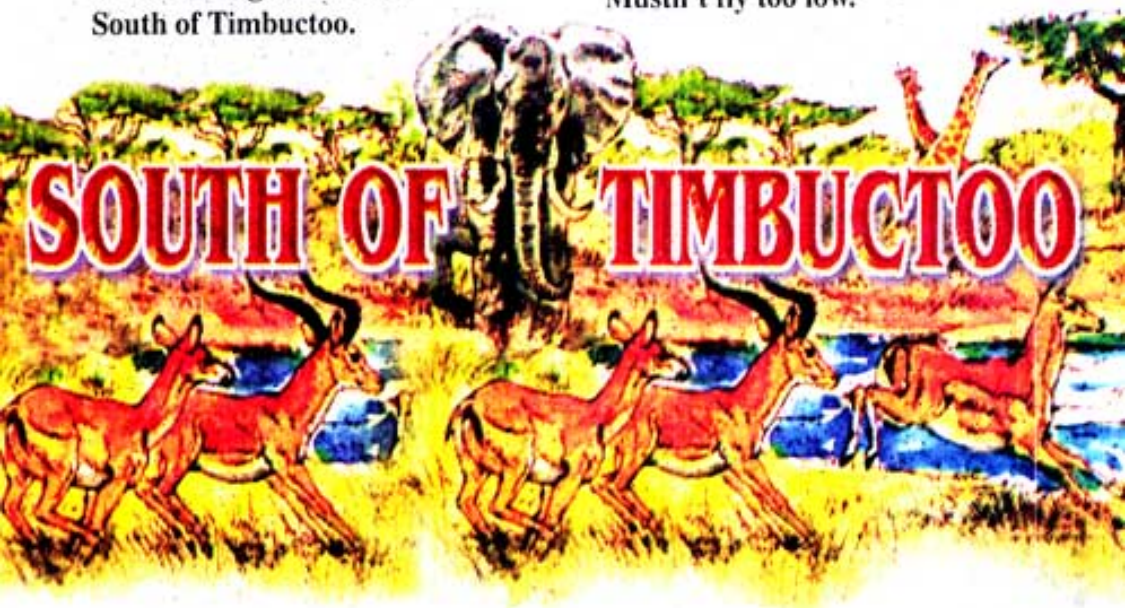
A Christmas cracker is a paper tube, wrapped around a small toy. It also contains two pieces of paper that make a snapping noise when they are pulled apart. Christmas crackers were invented by the Englishman Tom Smith in the 1840s. Today, crackers usually contain a paper hat and a riddle or joke, as well as a toy and a snapper. Several million boxes of Christmas crackers are sold each year during Christmas.

Santa's using zebras now
To pull his Christmas sleigh
'Cause a boy in Africa
Wrote to him one day.

"Santa please drop by" he said
"And bring some toys with you",
Santa's using zebras now
South of Timbuctoo.

Then some zebras came along
And they pulled Santa through
Santa's using zebras now
South of Timbuctoo.

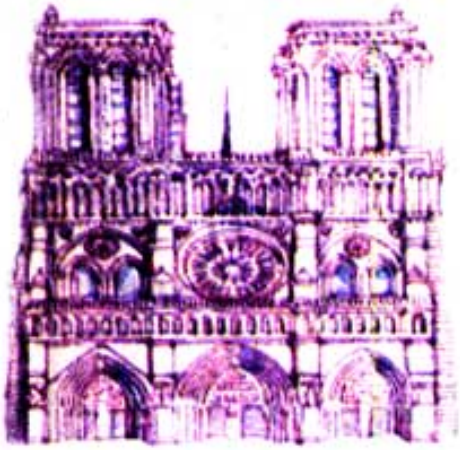
See the pyramids go by
And there's the Nile below
Watch out for that tall giraffe
Mustn't fly too low.



Donner Vixen all the reindeer
Put him on the spot
They were used to ice and snow.
But Africa was hot!

"Hello Hippopotamus,
The season's joy to you!"
"Hi there, Mr. Crocodile,
Merry Christmas too!"

Source: Raindrops and Rabbits a casette of songs in English for children.



MASTERPIECES

The church of Notre Dame in Paris is today over 800 years old. The corner-stone was laid by Pope Alexander III in the year 1163. A remarkable achievement of French Gothic architecture, the cathedral is today one of the world's most beautiful churches.

As they gallop over jungles,
Lions stop and stare
Wonder what those zebras
Could be doing way up there.

While the reindeer wait
for him
Back home in their igloo,
Santa's using zebras now
South of Timbuctoo.

The cathedral of St. Stephen in Vienna is yet another masterpiece of medieval art like the cathedral of Notre Dame.

While coloured tiles dominate, both the inside and the outside of the cathedral of St. Stephen, it is the grandeur of marble that is most impressive in Notre Dame.

DURING THE 1800s...

★ Christmas in the United States during the 1800s used to be a quiet and simple affair. The settlers had no time or money nor the transportation to buy things for Christmas. Some of the families had to walk miles to reach towns where Christmas services were held. The others who could not go, had their services at home.

★ For the feast, women baked bread at home. To go with this bread, they had jam and jelly.

★ The huge Christmas tree, so popular today, was not available then. People used small branches and shrubs.

★ One of the most exciting gifts used to be an orange which was grown in Florida. Bringing this variety of orange into the interiors in slow - moving coaches or trains was by itself a feat and hence a luxury. Most other gifts were hand-made. Women would start to knit or embroider months ahead of Christmas while men made wooden toys, tops or checker boards. Boys were generally gifted with tools while girls received rag dolls. A few lucky children got a book.

★ Washington Irwin wrote a book about St. Nicholas in the year 1809. In it, he describes St. Nicholas as a fun-loving elf who flew in his horse-drawn wagon over tree tops to deliver X-mas gifts to children.

★ In the year 1823, a poem titled 'A visit from St. Nicholas', written by Dr. Clement Moon was published. The poem was about Christmas eve and later became one of the most famous and popular descriptions of Santa Claus ever written.

- Vijaya Sridharan, Chennai.

SILENT NIGHT

'Silent Night' is the world's most favourite Christmas carol. This beautiful song was written by Joseph Mohr and F.X.Gruber. In 1816, the two friends sang the song at the Christmas Eve mass in the church where Joseph Mohr was the priest. The original song was written for a guitar accompaniment as the church organ was broken. Joseph Mohr's favourite instrument was the guitar. Mr. Gruber was an area teacher and church choir director who put this melody to words. They performed the song in public just once. Within two years, it was known world wide and has been a favourite ever since.

- Sneh Pradhan, Std. VIII, M.H.M.S. (South End.), Kolkata.

PUZZLES FOR CHRISTMAS

I. Riddles and Giggles

1. What do cats call Father Christmas?

2. Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas eve?

II. Do you know?

1. When was Christmas first celebrated?

2. Which star led the three wise men to the stable where Jesus was born?

3. In which language was the popular Christmas carol 'Silent Night' originally written?

4. Beneath a sprig of which plant is it customary to exchange kisses during Christmas time?

- T.S.Swathi, Std.IX,
Vivekananda Educational Centre,
Bangalore.

III. Match the characters on the left to those on the right :

1. Zipporah	A. Moses' sister
2. Samson	B. Roman Governor
3. Miriam	C. Moses' wife
4. Reuban	D. Simon Peter's brother
5. Boaz	E. Jacob's first child
6. Pilate	F. Ruth's husband
7. Judas	G. Delilah's lover
8. Thomas	H. A false friend
9. Jacob	I. A doubting disciple
10. Andrew	J. Jesus' grandfather

- R. Thomas Murphy, Std. VI,
Mahatma Gandhi Centenary
Vidyalaya, Trichy.

ANSWERS :

I : 1. Santa Claws 2. Because it 'soots' him.

II : 1. 4th century A.D. 2. The star of Bethlehem 3. German 4. Mistletoe

III : 1 - C, 2 - G, 3 - A, 4 - E, 5 - F, 6 - B, 7 - H, 8 - I, 9 - J, 10 - D.

SANTA

Santa is believed to be created from a variety of characters that include the 'real' St. Nicholas, the Viking god Odin with a long flowing white beard, Father X-mas of England and the Scandinavian character called 'Winterman' dressed in fur and skins.

The image of Santa that we know of today, was created by Hadden Sundblom in 1931 for a Coca Cola advertisement!

- Vijaya Sridharan, Chennai.

THE LEGEND

The fairy of the forest was getting very annoyed with her subjects, the trees. They were all quarrelling amongst themselves as to which of them had the best leaves.

'Mine are the biggest', boasted the chestnut.

'Mine give the deepest shade', said the oak.

'Mine are the most beautiful colour', insisted the copper beech, and so on. They laughed at the little pine, and said it wasn't a real tree at all as it had needles instead of leaves.

The forest fairy turned

Saint Nicholas - A BELIEF

St. Nicholas was born around 270 AD and lived in Myra (presently called Turkey). When he was still young, his parents died leaving behind a large inheritence. The sad Nicholas forsake all his property and dedicated his life to charity. He became well-known for his generosity and was specially loved by children.

One of the most well-known stories about St. Nicholas talks about how he helped three very poor sisters who had no money to get married. St. Nicholas

herself into a squirrel, and asked each tree in turn if she could build her nest in their topmost branches. Each one refused, except for the pine, which welcomed her. She climbed to the top, changed back into a fairy, and punished the other trees by making them lose all their leaves in winter.

That is why the tall, evergreen pine tree becomes king of the forest, and that is why we have one in our homes at Christmas - often with a little fairy on the top!

A STORY

"I'm going to find out whether the great white magic reindeer is a real animal, or whether Grandfather has been making up stories," Kipi said to himself. Kipi was the little boy from Lapland. "If I see it, and kill it, I'll know it's real."

Kipi put on his warm clothes and boots, fastened on his skis, and went off with his bow and arrow.

When he had gone some distance, he saw the giant form of a white reindeer silhouetted against the sky, with immense sparkling horns and flashing eyes.

"Do not kill me", it said, "and you will have good luck all your life."

Kipi turned round and went home on his skis as fast as he could, to tell Grandfather all about what he had seen.

Source: 366 stories for bedtime

dropped three bags of gold into their homes one of which accidentally fell into the socks hung by the fire-place. The surprised and overjoyed sisters thanked St. Nicholas. Today, people say that every year, on his special day (Saint Nicholas Day - December 6th) he rides through the countries of the North on a donkey and gives sweets and toys to children.

- Ms. Basupurna Majumdar,
Class VI, The Future Foundation School,
Kolkata.

X-mas GIFTS

Alice looked at the beautifully decorated X-mas tree. Her face lit up when she saw the gifts placed neatly beneath the tree. She wanted to unwrap them.

"No, Alice," warned her grandma. "You'll have to wait till we get back from church."

Alice was excited when she got back from church. She first opened a big box gifted to her by her mother. It was a plain white frock. She didn't like it, but still she thanked her mother.

Granny's gift was an embroidery kit with different coloured threads and needles of all sizes. Alice hated stitching.

She then unwrapped the gift from dad. A set of two volumes of the Britannica Encyclopaedia. Alice sighed. She would have been happier if they had been story books.

Uncle and aunt had gifted her with a game of chess. It was the most boring game anyway!

BOTTLE 'FUL' OF SNOW

When I went to the U.S. last year in December, it was Christmas and snowing, bitterly cold, brrrrrrr... We went to have pizza the day we were leaving and my little brother asked for a bottle in the restaurant. When we gave him the bottle he immediately went outside carrying all his woollens with him and filled the bottle with snow and said that he was going to take the bottle to India to show it to his friend! We all had a hearty laugh!

- Dhanya Srinath, VII Std, Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai.

How disappointing this X-mas had been. That's when Alice remembered the X-mas message she had heard at the church.

"Those who give to others, without expecting anything in return will surely be rewarded"

"That's what I'll do. I shall gift these to someone who would find use for them instead of letting them gather dust." Alice told herself.

She gave the embroidery kit to Fathima her maid who was good with needle work and embroidery. The two encyclopaedias were for her friend Tara who was a real quiz wizard.

Alice still had the white frock and the chess board. Her mother would be very disappointed if she gave the frock away. She didn't know anyone who would be interested in the game.

Alice felt miserable on the first day of school after X-mas hols. She had faired poorly in her Maths exam. She spoke to her friend Tara about it. "Why don't we group study in Maths?" offered Tara. Alice beamed with joy. She knew Tara was very good at Maths.

Alice was in for a surprise that week end. Mom showed her a beautifully embroidered frock. "Do you recognise this frock, Alice?" asked mom. "It is the white frock I bought for you for Christmas. Fathima offered to do the embroidery on it. Doesn't it look grand now?"

"I love it mom" said Alice as she turned to look at Fathima. "Thank you" she said, her eyes filled with tears of joy.

"I used the kit you gave me dear. I'm glad you like it" said Fathima.

Alice went into her room. She still had the game of chess. She would wait to give it to someone who will find use for it. She wouldn't mind even if she did not get anything in return .

- R. Anjoo Sharon, Coimbatore.

AMAZINGLY MODERN

Rovaniemi, in the north of Finland, was rebuilt after its destruction in the second world war.

Today, Rovaniemi is the home of Father Christmas! His office is amazingly modern! Father Christmas is pictured here in his wooden house. He is believed to answer all the letters that children send him! He has a word processor as well as a telephone!

Source: 366 wonders of the world.

"Merry Christmas to all of you.
See you again next month."

APPU & KUKU

SANTA JUNIOR

STORY & PICTURES: J. DISNEY

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR LOVE, GIFTS, FUN AND SANTA.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

THE CHILDREN OF THE FOREST HAVE PUT UP A NICELY DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE. BUT...

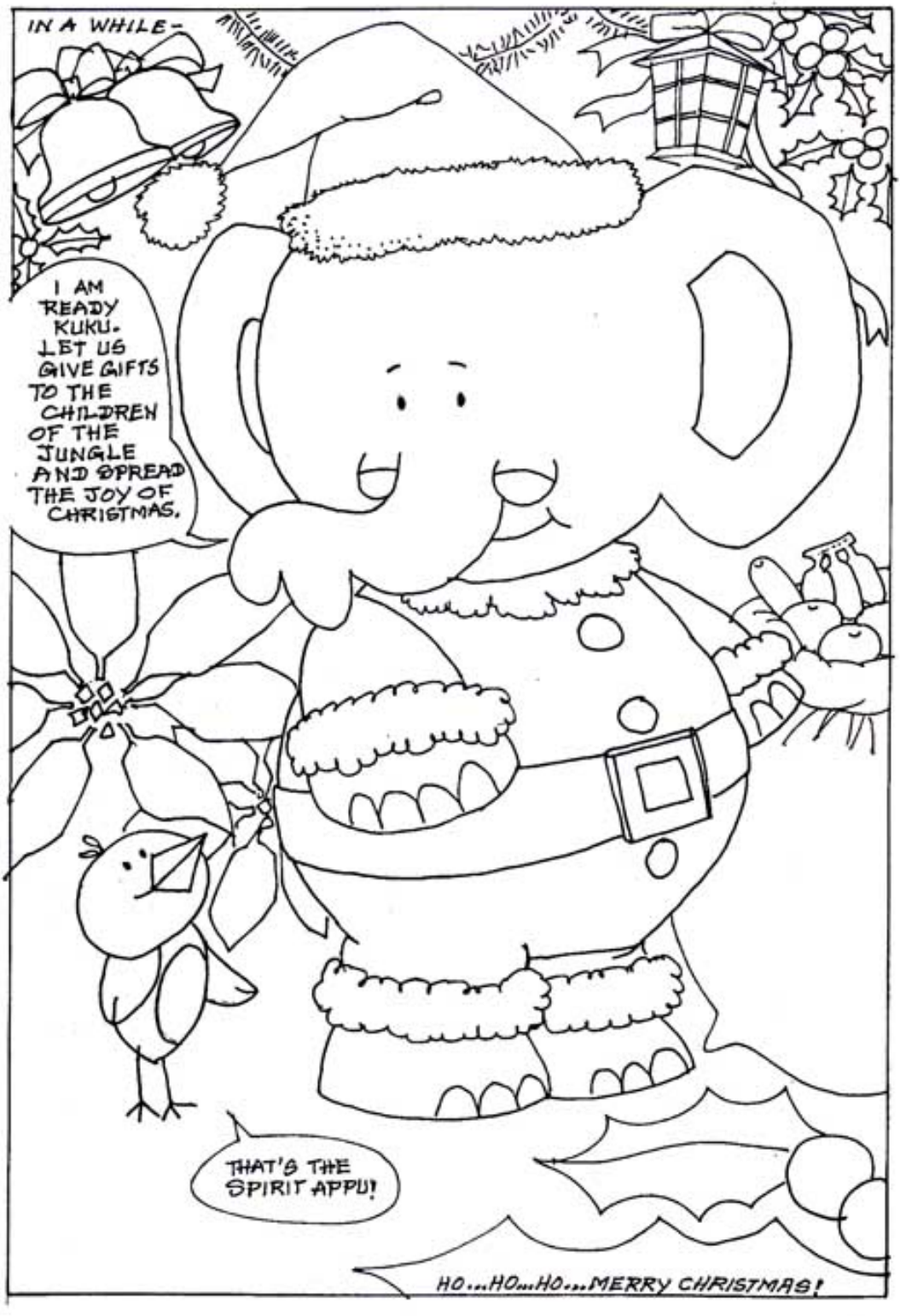
BUT WHAT?

JUST LEND ME YOUR EAR...

PSST PSST PSST!

I LOVE YOUR IDEA KUKU...

...I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!


IN A WHILE-
I AM READY KUKU. LET US GIVE GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN OF THE JUNGLE AND SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT APPU!
HO...HO...HO...MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SPORTS TALK

THE ASHES

Every two years, England and Australia meet in a five test match series - **the Ashes.** But why is it called that? To find out, we have to go all the way back to 1882. Australia toured England, and were all out for 63 in the first innings - and they went on to win the match! Fred Spofforth, known as 'the Demon', took 14 wickets for the aussies. The match lasted two days!

In the papers the next day, someone wrote a mock obituary for English cricket, ending by saying, "The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia". Thus the name was given to this series.

The most remembered Ashes series has to be the bodyline series, 1933, which England controversially won 4-1 in Australia. Douglas Jardine was the designer, and Harold Larwood, the constructor. This fast bowler was clocked at 96 mph, and very likely bowled faster. So when Jardine ordered him to bowl around the wicket, and put six close-in fielders on the on-side, you can imagine how terrifying it must have been for the batsman. Larwood struck one batsman just above the heart, and another on the head, fracturing his skull. Who said cricket was a gentleman's game?

In the recent years, the Ashes has mostly been one-way traffic. The heroes? McGrath and Warne without a shadow of a doubt. With all due respect to the excellent batting line up the aussies bring with them, it is their bowling that really stands out. Gillespie breathes fire when he has the ball, and Brett Lee consistently bowls at around 90 mph. What do you do?

No wonder England lost the first test match of the series that is now going on. On the first day, the aussies put up a score in excess of 300 for the loss of just 2 wickets, and on the third day they stamped out a possible fightback, bowling England out keeping a lead of 150 plus. Then they proceeded to bat England out of the match, bowling them out for 79 in the second innings. England had just the one good day - the second. They bowled the remaining 8 aussie wickets for just 128 runs, and then Vaughan proceeded to plunder runs. Butcher and Trescothick carried on the good work. One good day for England, three good days for Australia. It's simple arithmetic.

- Abhinav Ramnarayan

NEW COLUMN

BEGINS FROM FEBRUARY 2003

STAR RENDEZVOUS

'MADDY... OH... MADDY...'

Your First V.I.P.

a rendezvous with your all-time favourite

MADHAVAN...

through the pages of your favourite magazine

- Send in your questions to **MADHAVAN** through **GOKULAM**
- **MADHAVAN** answers selected questions
- If your question is answered, you will receive an autographed photograph from **MADHAVAN**

Send in your questions to :

Star Rendezvous
C/o Gokulam
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 97

- **Last date : 18.12.2002**
- **Only one question allowed**
- **Write only on a postcard**
- **Mention details of your name, age, class and school. Also give your residential address.**

GOKULAM

Our Favourite Magazine

Single copy Rs.6/- One year Rs.72/- Two years Rs.144/-

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

..... Pin : .....

Period : ☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ (DD / MO / Cheque*) * Outstation cheques not accepted.

You can also register with your newspaper agent for a month after month door delivery.

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam (English),
47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 097.

LEARNING FROM THE PUPILS

Offer a surprise gift to your friend. You will find his eyes opening wide with pleasure and delight. In fact, two things happen : the eye-lids open wide and also the pupils dilate visibly.

By observing the way pupils behave, psychologists can learn more about our reaction to events - no matter how hard we try to conceal our real feelings or say things contrary to them. The pupils dilate into large discs with pleasure and shrink to small points when disgusted or frightened. Pupils reveal subtle informations. They are the windows to the way our minds work.

The pupils offer information about the state of our nervous system as a whole. While solving problems in Math, the pupils of students dilate and remain dilated until the problem is solved correctly.

Taste and smell also affect the behaviour of the pupils. Since we have no control on the way the pupils behave,

THE BIGGEST MAMMAL BABY

A blue whale calf is the biggest mammal baby. When it is born, a calf can be over 7 m (25 ft) long and weigh nearly 2 tonnes. By drinking upto 600 litres of its mother's rich milk a day, it can double its weight in just a week! By the time it is seven months old, a calf may weigh as much as 23 tonnes.

- R. Sruthi, Std. IX, KV (CLRI), Chennai.

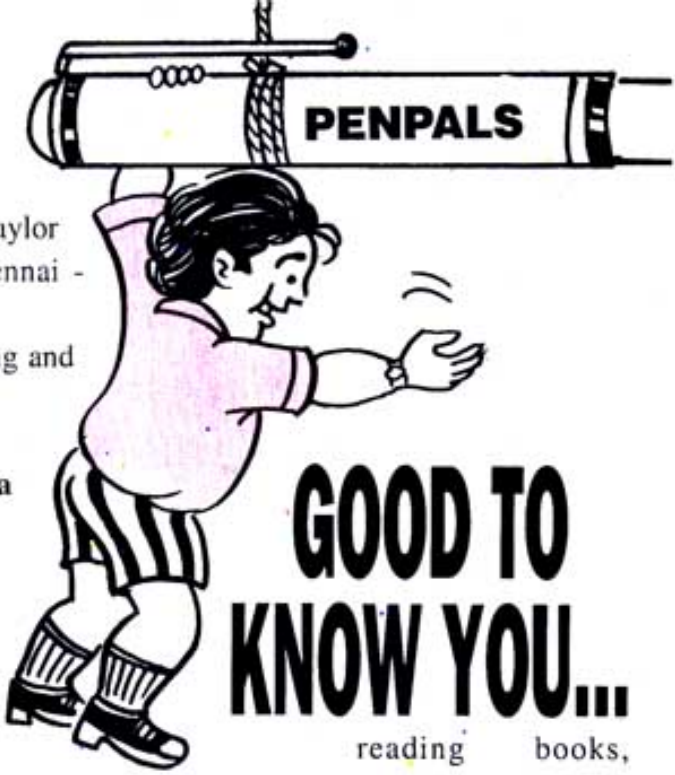
they form natural lie-detectors of the body. While shown photographs of beautiful models, the pupils dilate and they shrink when pictures of poisonous snakes are shown.

Magicians can tell when a hidden card shows up. The pupils of the person who put it there dilate in recognition! Psychologists use it to study the reactions of young people towards their parents and their attitudes towards the opposite sex.

In dim light every person looks handsome or beautiful. One of the reasons is that pupils dilate in dim light adding to the beauty of the person.

Next time you see a person's eyes light up in delight, just examine your own reaction, to see how much it makes you happy!

- Smt. Visalakshi Ramani, Coimbatore.



GOOD TO KNOW YOU...

Name : **S. Soundarya**

Age : 9

Address : 11, 1st Street, Taylor Estate, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024.

Hobbies : Reading, singing and playing computer games.

Name : **V. Sandeep Sharma**

Age : 10

Address : 17-25-37, Plot No.37, Sairam Nagar Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039.

Hobbies : Reading jokes and stories, playing, watching TV, singing, listening to music, collecting stamps and coins.

Name : **J. Madhuri**

Age : 10

Address : MIG II B 90, Vuda Colony, Vinayak Nagar, Gajuwaka, Vishakhapatnam - 530 044.

Hobbies : Watching TV, playing, collecting stamps, cycling, singing, reading books, drawing, making friends, cooking, painting and watching educative programmes on TV.

Name : **B.B. Chiranjeevi**

Age : 12

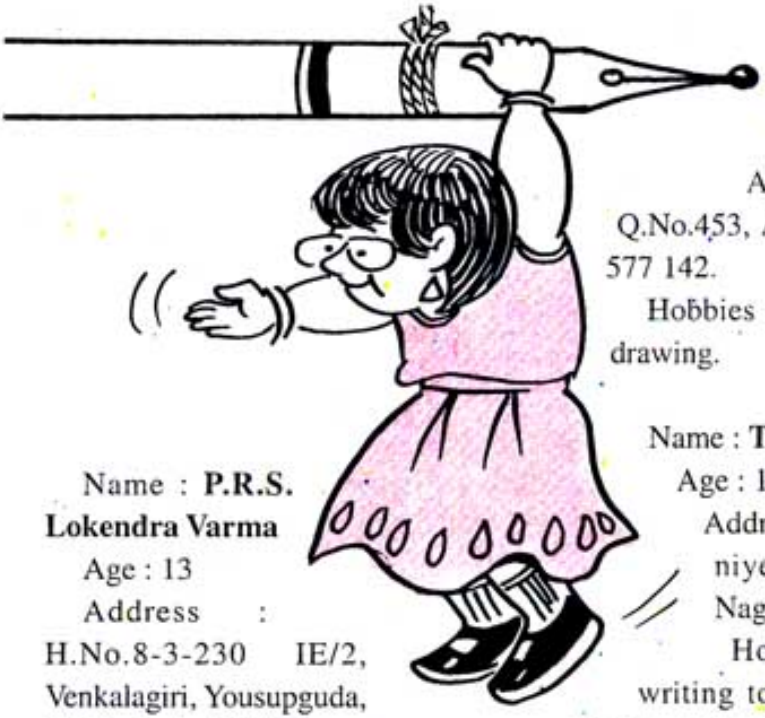
Address : Kiocl Sector - 1, H.No. B-51, P.O. Kudremukh, Dist. Chickmaglur - 577 142.

Hobbies : Playing basket ball, swimming and cricket.

A CHALLENGE!

Q : You are challenged to put nine pigs in the eight pens given above. (Pen means an enclosure to keep animals)

See page 24 for answer.



Name : **B.G. Shoba**
Age : 13
Address : II Sector, Q.No.453, A Type, Kudremukh - 577 142.
Hobbies : Reading books and drawing.

Name : **T. Gayathri**
Age : 13
Address : No.130/A, Vanniyer Street, West K.K. Nagar, Chennai - 600 078.
Hobby : Reading and writing to Gokulam, drawing, playing games on the computer, craft work and writing letters to friends.

Name : **P.R.S. Lokendra Varma**
Age : 13
Address : H.No.8-3-230 IE/2, Venkalagiri, Yousupguda, Hyderabad - 500 045.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps, reading stories, playing foot ball and volley ball and drawing.

Name : **Pranita Karnik**
Age : 13
Address : 19, 'Somja', Janki Nagar, Baldeobagh, Jabalpur, M.P. - 482 002.
Hobbies : Singing , writing articles to Gokulam and calligraphy.

Name : **A.B. Karl Marx**
Age : 13
Address : 5, Vadivelu Mudali Street, Paddy Field Road, Perambur, Chennai - 600 011.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps, reading story books and general knowledge books, painting and playing chess.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Teacher : Raju, do you know anything about 18th century kings?
Raju : Yes, I do
Teacher : What do you know?
Raju : They are all dead!

- K. Sree Harish, Std. VIII, Mother's Integral School, Hyderabad.

THE BIRTHDAYS

"Nobody seems to care for me" thought Ashwin who was just over a year older than his sister Asha. "Why do they make such a fuss over Asha's birthday? They've been talking about it for a whole week now." He sulked.

It was the eve of Asha's birthday. "Have you invited all your friends, dear?" reminded mom as she sorted out the return gifts that were to be gift-wrapped.

Asha ran to her room to fetch the list she had made. "Rina, Anitha, Bindu, Kavitha..." she read aloud as Ashwin frowned. "The list seems endless" he murmured.

"Mom! I did leave Renu out. I meant to go over to her house this evening, but got too busy with this work. Do you think Ashwin could go with me now to her place? She lives just two streets away after all..."

Ashwin did not wait for mom to reply. He simply walked away from the scene.

Mom noticed the disappointment on Asha's face. "Never mind dear. He's just upset. Leave him alone. Why don't you invite her over the telephone?"

When Asha woke up the next morning, there lay a beautiful party frock on her bed! Mom and dad walked into the room to give her a big hug and wish her happy birthday. Ashwin watched in silence.

That evening's party was full of fun and excitement-gifts, games, a lovely birthday cake and a delicious snack.

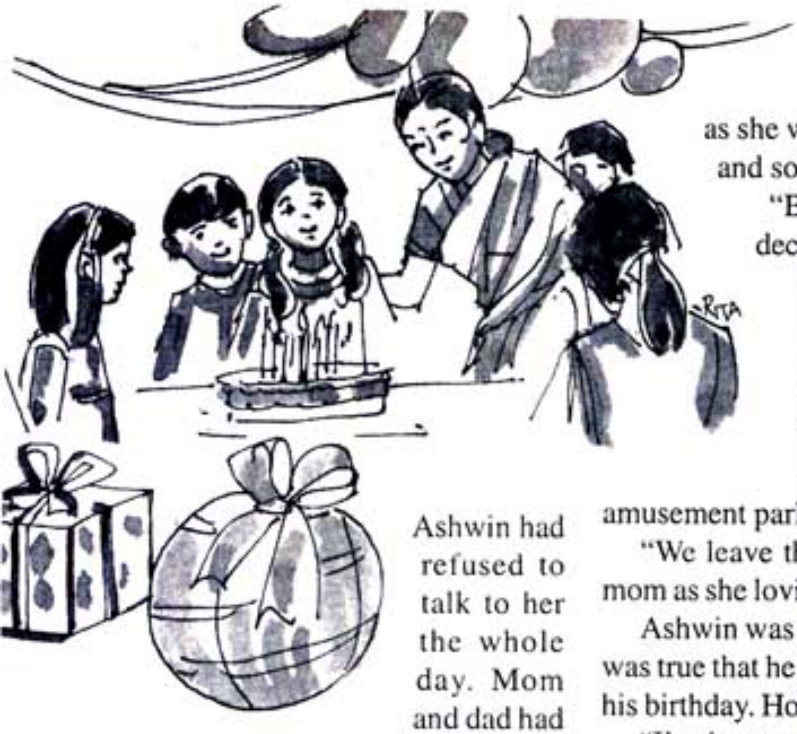
Although Asha was in the greatest of spirits, she missed Ashwin very much, for, he had locked himself up in his room. However much she tried,

SWEET, SEEDLESS WATERMELONS

U.S. researchers have created sweet, seedless watermelons that fit easily in your fridge. The mini-melons are only 12 c.m. in diameter and have an extremely thin skin.

Scientist Dr. John Sorenson and his team at 'Sygenta Seeds' have crossed different varieties to create the mini-melons.

-Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata.



Ashwin had refused to talk to her the whole day. Mom and dad had advised her to leave him alone, so she had given up. She did miss him at the party though!

A few months later, one fine evening after dinner, dad walked up to Ashwin who was watching a programme on television. "You have just thirteen days to go, young man" said dad as he moved closer to his son. Ashwin had no clue about what dad was saying. "No exams now dad" he said.

"Its your birthday, darling" said mom as she walked up to join father and son.

"Both mom and I have decided to take leave from work and be at home for your birthday. Tell us what you want to do, invite friends over for a party? Go out on a picnic? Visit an amusement park?" asked dad.

"We leave the choice to you" said mom as she lovingly ruffled his hair.

Ashwin was too excited to speak. It was true that he had forgotten all about his birthday. How silly of him!

"I've been wanting to visit the Super Speed Go-Kart Arena. Can we go there dad? Or, do you think it is too far and expensive?" asked Ashwin hesitantly.

"Sure, no problem, Let's spend the day out there," assured dad.

The day dawned bright and sunny. When Ashwin woke up that morning, he found everyone busy. Asha was helping her mother to pack the picnic basket and dad was getting the car cleaned and ready.

BUDDING CHEF

ICE CREAM FLOAT

You will need:

a tall glass of chilled cola, a scoop of Vanilla ice cream and few cherries.

Method:

Take the tall glass of your favourite chilled cola. Allow the scoop of vanilla ice cream to float on it gently. Top up with a few cherries. Take sips of the cola as the icecream begins to melt.

- Srisha Joshi, Std IX, Holy Cross Convent, Kalyan.

"Happy Birthday Ashwin", "God bless you my dear", "Hope you have a nice day" - Asha, mom and dad greeted the birthday boy as he came into the living room. On the table lay three lovely presents all neatly wrapped.

"Go on Ashwin. Open them and see if you like them" said Asha, as she picked up one of them to give Ashwin.

New clothes from mom, an automatic camera from dad and a very special card from Asha. Ashwin opened the card. It said 'Happy B'day Ashwin. Another surprise for you in your cupboard. With lots of love - Asha'.

It was a game of scrabble. Ashwin loved to play this game. Having lost many of the letters, few at a time, Ashwin had to discard the one that he already had. Asha had realised how disappointed he was. She had decided to buy him another one.

"How did you manage to buy it dear?" asked mom.

"From the savings in my piggy bank. I knew how much he loved this game and how disappointed he was when he had to discard it. So, I bought it for him" said Asha as she gave her brother a tight hug.

Soon, the family of four was driving down to the Super Speed Go-Kart Arena. Dad switched on the music system. Mom opened a packet of biscuits. Asha began to read her favourite book. Ashwin's thoughts went back to Asha's birthday. "How silly I had been on that day. How much everyone loves me..." he thought. His eyes closed and he soon fell asleep as dad drove on.

- B. Sherlin Ownita, Std. IX,
St. Joseph's Anglo Indian
Girls HSS,
Trichy.

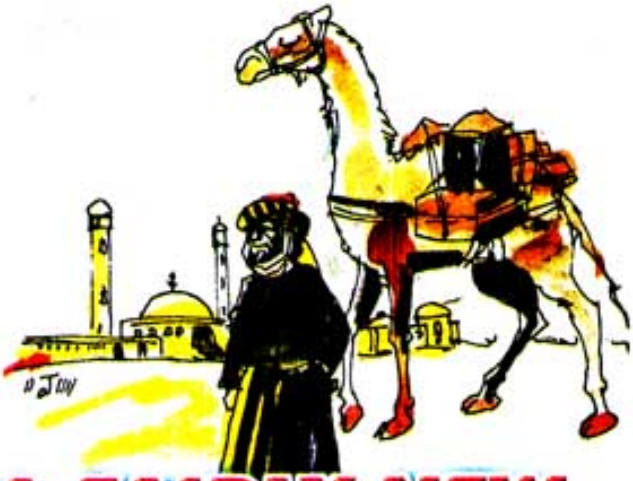
A CHALLENGE!

Solution to puzzle on page 20

N	I	N	E
P	I	G	S

P. Sai Deepak, Std V, Saikor English Medium School, Vizianagaram.

Countries and their children



A FAIRLY NEW COUNTRY

Salim was waiting for Ahmed at the Sharjah airport. The aeroplane was due to land any moment. Ahmed was coming from India under a cultural exchange programme with the United Arab Emirates, where Salim was living.

Ahmed approached Salim, seeing the placard he was carrying. Salim hugged Ahmed and said, "Welcome to the United Arab Emirates, my friend", and took him to his car. "I am very happy that you have come now, what with Ramzan approaching in the next two days, you can see for yourself how we celebrate it. The city is already wearing a festive look and there is excitement everywhere. I will also take you to Dubai, the Mecca for shopping. By the way, which class are you studying in?" asked Salim. By then, they were seated comfortably inside the car.

"I am in the seventh standard. And you?" asked Ahmed.

"I am at the preparatory level, which comes after Kindergarten and Primary levels. Then I have to do the Secondary level for another three years and a Technical Secondary level for a period of 6 years. So my education totally lasts 14 years", concluded Salim.

"That's comparable to ours... I

BAMBOO GLASSES

Japonism, a brand of eyewear, released the world's first bamboo spectacle frames last year. The bamboo frames are made of carefully selected bamboo grown in Kyoto, and are individually polished by skilled craftsmen. They are much lighter than titanium or aluminium frames, and have a pleasant feel to them.

Bamboo is very hard to work with, so the craftsmen can only make a single frame a day! At ¥66,000, the bamboo frames are a bit pricey, but seen as the work of a master craftsman the price might not seem so unreasonable.

Courtesy : Pacific Friend

thought your country would be very hot", remarked Ahmed as he shivered slightly at the blast from the car's AC.

"To experience the heat, you must step outside! But we would rarely have a chance to do so because everywhere it is air-conditioned. We travel in air-conditioned cars, park inside air-conditioned garages and go into air-conditioned homes via air-conditioned lobbies or lifts", he laughed.

"But our people wear white head gear and flowing robes to protect them from the heat and sand blowing from the desert", he added.

"Where is the desert? I see only tall buildings and skyscrapers, much like any developed nation" asked Ahmed curiously.

"We have everything - mountains, beaches, deserts, oases, parks and gardens, heritage sites, modern cities and also villages."

"Is Sharjah a state in the UAE?"

"Actually there are seven Emirates in the UAE : Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras-Al-Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah. Each has its own identity. The Emirates combine tradition, nature, sports and shopping in an interesting mixture. It is a fairly new country born only in 1971. But with its oil resources, it has become one of the richest nations indeed".

"What do your people do in their spare time?"

"They love fishing, boating, growing date palm gardens, pearling and camel racing and of course they indulge in music and dance. Music and dance play a vital role in the people's lives. Songs are composed to accompany different tasks like hauling water from the well, diving for pearl oysters etc."

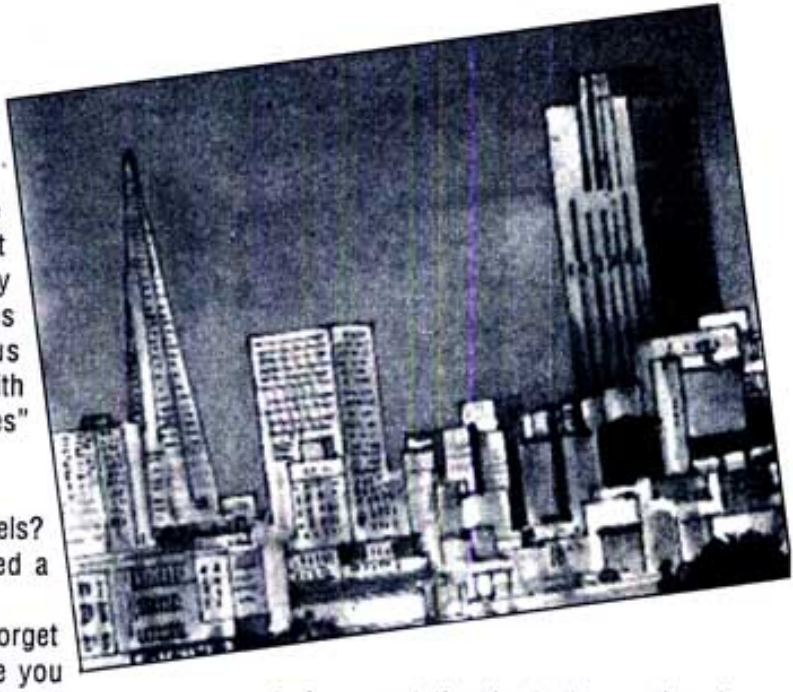
"That's really interesting" said Ahmed as he gazed out of the window admiring the splendour of the city. "In the deserts, men would gather around a fire to talk, sing

INTERESTING TO NOTE

A special type of cicada found in USA has a life span of 17 years. It is interesting to note that this creature sleeps underground for nearly 17 years, comes to the surface of land to enjoy just 5 weeks of the 'outside' world! Then it dies!

- R. Sathish Kumar, Std. VIII,
Sainik School, Coimbatore.

or exchange news. Whenever there is a celebration, traditional songs and dances are performed with great enthusiasm. Men may also enact old battles fought and famous hunting expeditions, with sticks, swords or rifles" explained Salim.



"What about camels? I see only cars," asked a bemused Ahmed.

"How can anyone forget the camels? Of course you won't find them much in cities like these. The camels are God's own gift to the people of this land. The camel gives the tribesman his mobility. It is his mount and his beast of burden. He can ride it for work or for fun, as in the traditional races. There are terrains here where no other transport can be of use except the camel.

"Camel milk and milk products were the only source of protein for the entire family for long periods.Camel hide was used to make bags and other useful utensils, while some of the finest mens' garments called *bisht,* were woven from camel hair.

"Sadly camel races have earned a notorious reputation due to the practice of children from Asian, African and South American countries being used illegally in camel races. It's a cruel and dangerous practice that has resulted in heavy child trafficking" Salim said in a voice choked with emotion.

"Now, don't frighten your friend Salim. Our Government has banned it now", his mother smiled.

The car went into the air-conditioned garage of Salim's home and the boys hopped out off the car and raced into the centrally air-conditioned home.

- Radhika Sasankh

POOR POLICEMAN

"Why is the police man roaming with a knife?"

" The thief seems to have stolen his gun!"

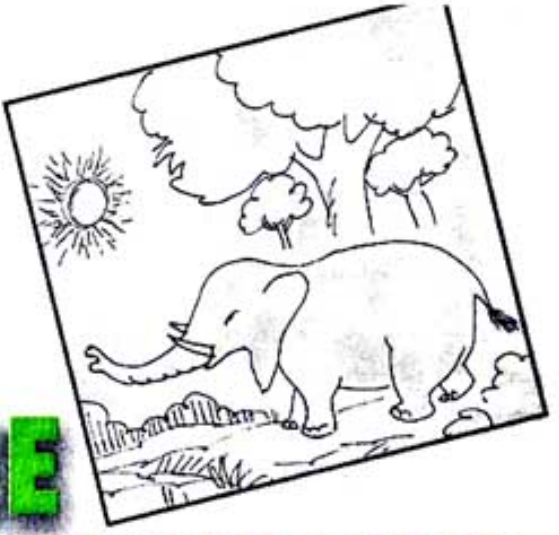
- S. Dharshana,
Std VI,
Anna Adarsh,
Chennai - 12.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

VENU VARIATH JOY THOMAS

Later -
How can I keep this copper coin safe?
It doesn't have any value these days.
But the third prince thought otherwise.
Though a copper coin, its valuable.
Next year -
Isn't tomorrow our birthday?
Yes.
The king sent for the princes the next day.
I'd like to give you a present this year too.
Wait... wait. Before that, where are the copper coins I gave you last year?
What is it this time?

I'll give a present this year only to those who return the coin I gave last year.
Wasn't that a copper coin? I lost it.
We'll give you another in its place.
No way. I want the ones I gave you.
The third prince came forward.
Here, father.
This is the coin you gave me last year.
What!
I'm proud of you, my son. You are the rightful heir to my kingdom. If I cannot trust my children with a copper coin, how can I entrust an entire kingdom?
And so, the king crowned the third prince.



THE INTRUDERS

In the jungles of Karnataka, there was a pond by the side of a falls where a frog lived happily, until one day when it met a young and brash elephant. The elephant had come to drink water in the pond when it's concentration was disturbed by the croaking of the frog.

"Stop making that weird noise" he ordered. Irked by this, the frog replied, "Hey elephant. This is my pond. I live here and you are a stranger here. So, please don't dictate terms to me."

The elephant got wild and shouted, "You tiny creature. You are not even one hundredth of me. How dare you talk like this to me." The frog retorted, "May be you are big. But I have my own strengths. So do not make comparisons."

Their argument continued till dusk settled and the elephant parted. From then on, the elephant came to the pond regularly for drinking water and never failed to ridicule the frog.

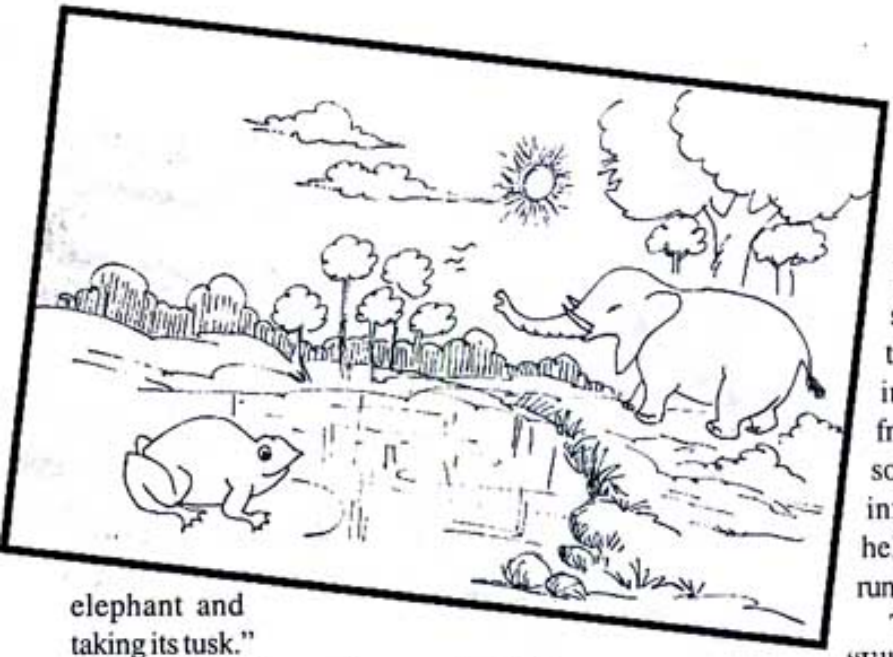
One day, in the wee hours of the morning, three men clad in military green uniform and armed with machine guns came to the pond to take bath and collect water in their cans. From their conversation, the frog picked up that they were elephant poachers and smugglers. The frog heard them saying, "It is quite some time since we hunted down an elephant and today, we should not leave this spot without shooting an

THE PARENT PAGE

ALWAYS BE A WINNER!

The winner always has a plan, the loser always has an excuse.
The winner says, "Let me do it."
The loser says, "That's not my job."
The winner sees an answer in every problem.
The loser sees a problem in every answer.
The winner says, "It may be difficult, but it is possible."
The loser says, "It may be possible, but it is difficult."

- Prabha Narayanaswamy, Std.X,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir Junior College, Chennai.



elephant and taking its tusk."

The frog knew at once that the elephant – its bete-noire was in trouble. It thought for a second, "Oh, the giant is going to meet its waterloo today", but instantly repented for such a stupid thought. "No, I should not allow these armed intruders and heartless men to kill the majestic elephant."

So thinking, it stealthily left the pond, leapt on the land and went in search of the elephant. After an hour, it spotted the elephant . As the elephant came near, the frog jumped on to its trunk. It then briefly and quickly explained about the impending threat from the armed men stationed near the pond.

The elephant, on hearing the story, began to tremble. Shivering, he told the frog, "Thank you so much for the information and help. Now let me run for my life."

The frog said, "I'll also come with you. Let us not just run away. If we run, those men will kill some other elephant, some other time. So let us go and report to the forest officials."

The elephant promptly took the tiny frog's advice and ran with the frog seated on its back. They went to the forest bungalow and reported the matter to the officials, who dashed in their jeeps and nabbed the poachers.

"All credit to you my friend" said the elephant. The frog and the elephant became intimate friends ever after.

- V.Viswanathan, Chennai.

ZERO CONCEPT

Ramu : I don't quite approve of my fore fathers.

Raghu : Why?

Ramu : If they hadn't invented the zero, my report card would have looked better.

- C.S. Sabarish, Std. IV, B.V. Reddy School, Chittoor.

Each of these entries wins a cash prize of Rs.100/-

THE JOY OF READING

Title of the book : **Little Women**
Author : **Lousia May Alcott**

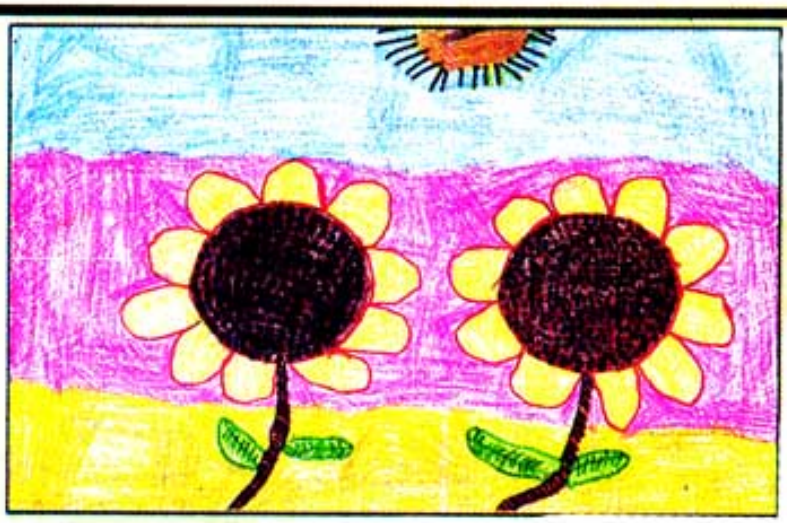
Recently, I read the book titled "Little Women" authored by Lousia May Alcott. The book narrates the life of Americans in the 19th century. The story is about the March family which is not very well - off. The four March girls and their mother try to be contented with what they have. Their father is away fighting a civil war, whereas, Mrs. March looks after the injured soldiers. The March family makes friends with Lourie, a rich but lonely and motherless boy, who lives next door. The story of the book heralds the simple and meaningful message that life is never a bed of roses but full of ups and downs which everyone has to confront. I like this book the most.

Book Review Contest Results

- M. Deepika Priyadarshini, Std. IX, Tagore International School, New Delhi.

SHINING BRIGHT!

G. Sushil Vasan, Std. II, D.A.V. Boys School, Chennai.



Title of the book : **A Long walk for Bina**

Author : **Ruskin Bond**

In this book Ruskin Bond describes the life of Bina and her friends, who walk miles everyday, crossing mountains and streams, to reach their secondary school. The story is set in Nauti, a village near Tehri, where Bina lives. Mr. Bond also describes the adverse effects the controversial Tehri dam has on ecology as well as its advantages. The language is simple and lucid that children can understand readily.

The author describes vividly the villages of the sub-Himalayan mountainous region, the February sunshine, the forest fires of early June, landslides, end-of-June monsoon and lovely September when dahlias bloom.

He also tells the importance of education for girls as exemplified by Bina.

The way he changes the story from a narrative style, while talking about the region, to an argumentative one, while writing about the Tehri dam is simply beautiful and makes this book a must read.

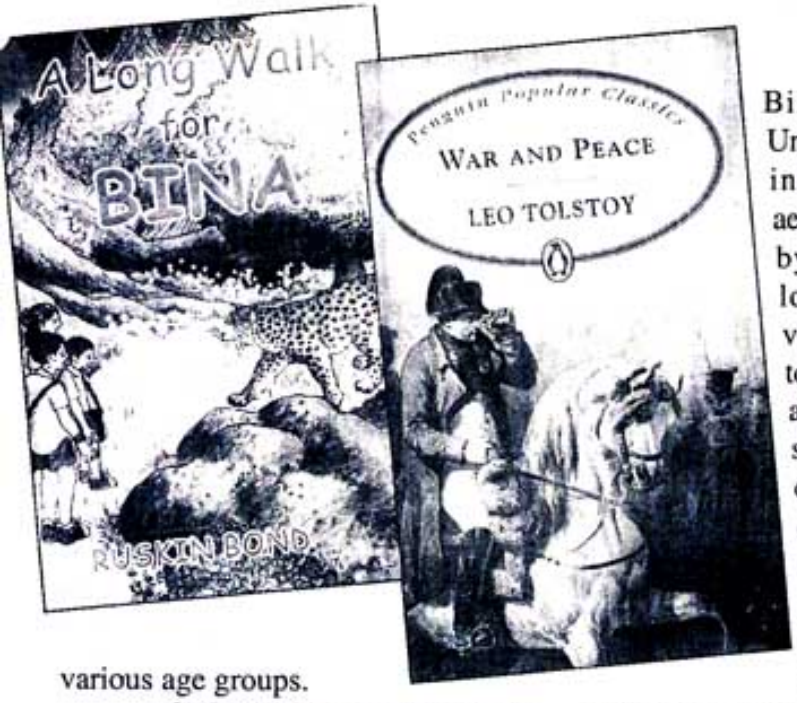
- Venkatesh Balakrishnan, Std. VI, Amity International School, New Delhi.

Title of the book : **War and Peace**

Author : **Leo Tolstoy**

Of the many books which I have read so far, the most interesting and the most fascinating one was, 'War and Peace' by 'Leo Tolstoy'. This novel, includes the infinite experiences and inner feelings of the human race, during Napoleon's time. The story deals with the 19th century Russian life. Varying between the periods of bloodshed and turbulence, the story exposes the lavish wealth of the nation too. The most interesting feature of the novel and the reason behind my liking it, is the potrayal of the characters in a manner, that brings both the vile and the good in them.

The 'Rostov' family is the centre, around which the entire story revolves. This book surely deserves the appreciation of the people belonging to



various age groups.

- G. Sri Madhura, Std. X, Sri Sitaram Vidhyalaya M.H.S.S., Chennai

Title of the book : **The Valley of Adventure**

Author : **Enid Blyton**

My favourite book is 'The Valley of Adventure' by Enid Blyton. Four children Jack, Philip, Dinah and Lucy-Ann and their talkative parrot, Kiki are to go on a night flight, in their friend, Bill's aeroplane. Unfortunately, they get into the wrong aeroplane and are flown by wicked men to a lonely and deserted valley. There are towering mountains all around and there seems to be no way of escape for the children. How the children hide from the men, find food for themselves and a cave to live in, all make it a very interesting and exciting story. The children also find stolen treasure and valuable statues hidden in caves on the mountains. Are the thieves finally caught and do the children manage to escape from the valley?

Well, I'm sure all of you would like to read the book yourselves to find out. I have no doubt all of you will enjoy reading it. The book is available at most bookshops - so happy adventuring!

- Raadhika Vishvesh, Std. III, Naval Public School, Mumbai.

HARD TO BELIEVE!

The mermaid legend is thought to have come from the rather ugly dugong. It is hard to believe that these lumbering creatures could have been mistaken for mermaids but from a distance they do look a little like human forms with fish like tails.

- R. Sruthi, Std. IX, KV (CLRI), Chennai.

UNDIR STORY

It was the beginning of a long weekend. Saturday-Sunday followed by two festival holidays. "What fun! I'm really, really going to freak out!" shouted Brother Undir.

"Me too!" agreed Sister, tumbling on to the sofa.

The two of them ran straight to the TV. Brother grabbed the remote and turned on cartoons. "I don't want to see cartoons! Go to *Nickleodeon*!" demanded Sister.

"I got the remote first! I want cartoons!"

"*Nickleodeon*!"

"Cartoons"

"*Nickleodeon*!"

"No!"

"Yes!"

Sister just grabbed the remote out of Brother's hands and started changing channels. Brother was taken aback. It was not like Sister at all. What had got into her? She was getting aggressive about TV. He went crying to Mama Undir.

REMOTE CONTROL!

"Ma! Tell her ple-e-e-a-s-e! I want to see the cartoons and, I got the remote first!"

"But, Ma!" countered Sister Undir. "Cartoons are silly. Why can't he also watch *Nickleodeon* for a change?"

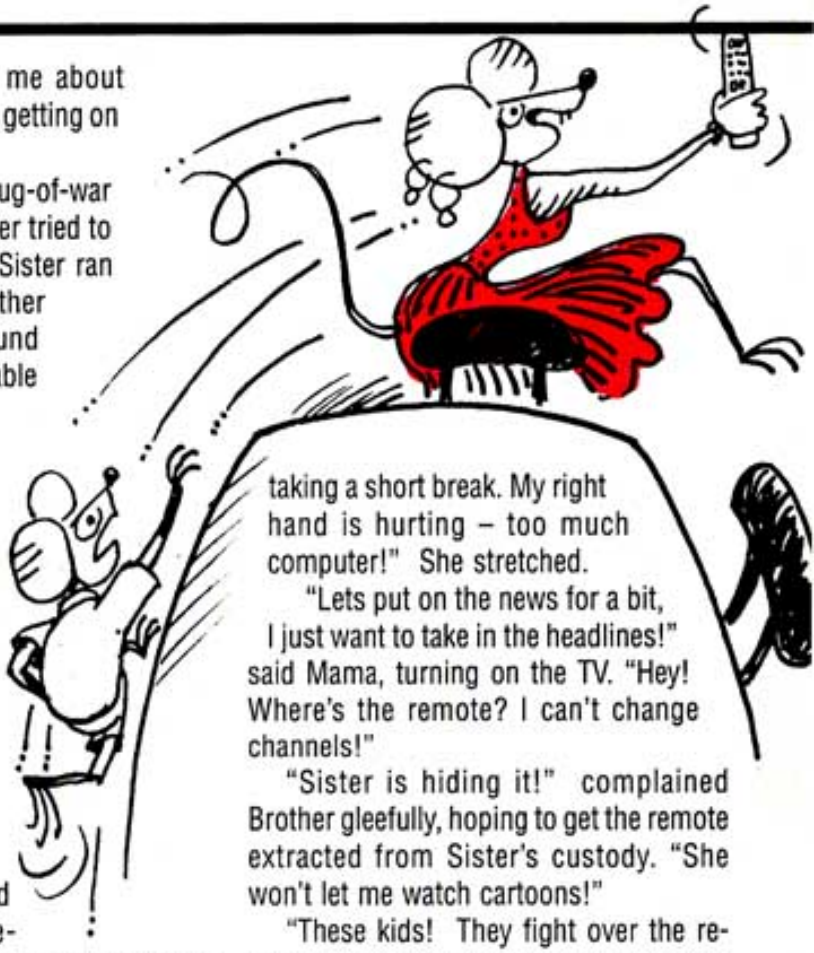
Mama was busy finishing up a report. The holidays had come in handy to catch up. "Come on both of you! Sort it out.

THE STRANGEST HOUSE

Sara Winchester was a wealthy lady who lived in California. She was said to be a little insane. For some unknown reason, she decided to add one extra room to her house every year. When she died in 1922, the house had 160 rooms and covered six acres. Many of the rooms in her house were never used. The rooms were very strange. They weren't of any normal size. Some rooms were abnormally large while some were

Don't keep bothering me about small things!" she said, getting on with her work.

Soon there was a tug-of-war with the remote. Brother tried to get the remote back. Sister ran out of the room. Brother chased after her. Round and round the dining table they ran.



Papa Undir walked in with a lot of shopping bags in his hand. "Come on, both of you! Aren't you two going to help me with these bags?"

Brother and Sister looked at each other. Would Sister go? Could Brother grab the remote? Finally, since Sister decided to stubbornly stay where she was, Brother took the bags from Papa. Mama Undir also joined in and started unpacking the groceries. "Reports done?" asked Papa. Mama made a face, "Almost! I'm taking a short break. My right hand is hurting – too much computer!" She stretched.

"Lets put on the news for a bit, I just want to take in the headlines!" said Mama, turning on the TV. "Hey! Where's the remote? I can't change channels!"

"Sister is hiding it!" complained Brother gleefully, hoping to get the remote extracted from Sister's custody. "She won't let me watch cartoons!"

"These kids! They fight over the remote so much that neither watches anything!" remarked Mama.

"Seems as if they prefer to stop each other from watching TV, rather than watch what the other one wants! Stupid, really stupid. Why can't they just share?"

ANURADHA K. RAJIVAN

extremely tiny. The house was very mysterious. There were stairways that led no where, windows that faced onto blank walls and long secret passageways and hidden hallways. There were totally eight storeys, three lifts, 2000 doors and 10,000 windows! Today this house has been transformed into a museum and in case you're curious, you're free to see and explore this house from its interiors.

- Ankita Shreeram, Std.VIII,
Holy Angels H.S., Mumbai

"Adamant, both of them! Hmm, anyway, its my turn! I'm taking a break. Here, give me the remote!" asked Mama. Sister came in hiding the remote behind her. Finally, and very reluctantly, she gave in to Mama Undir.

Mama changed channels looking for news. Suddenly there was cricket. Dravid was batting – he had just hit a four, but had started running and was rushing back. "Stop, stop!" exclaimed Papa, "Let me check out on cricket! What's happening to Dravid? It seems like a gripping game! I'd like to watch! Can't you understand?"

"But I wanted the news! Just the headlines...can't you wait? At least for my short break?"

"No, no! Hurry! Give me the remote!" and Papa grabbed it from Mama's hand! How could he miss the exciting part?

"But cricket is almost everyday!" complained Mama.

"So is the news! In fact every hour!" Papa settled down on the sofa...and was lost in the match in no time at all!

"Hey, hey!" Mama was indignant, but who was paying any attention?

"I give up!" remarked Brother, grinning.

"And they were calling us names!"

"May be they'll see sense and just get another TV!"

"Then the parents can fight over their remote, while we fight over ours!"

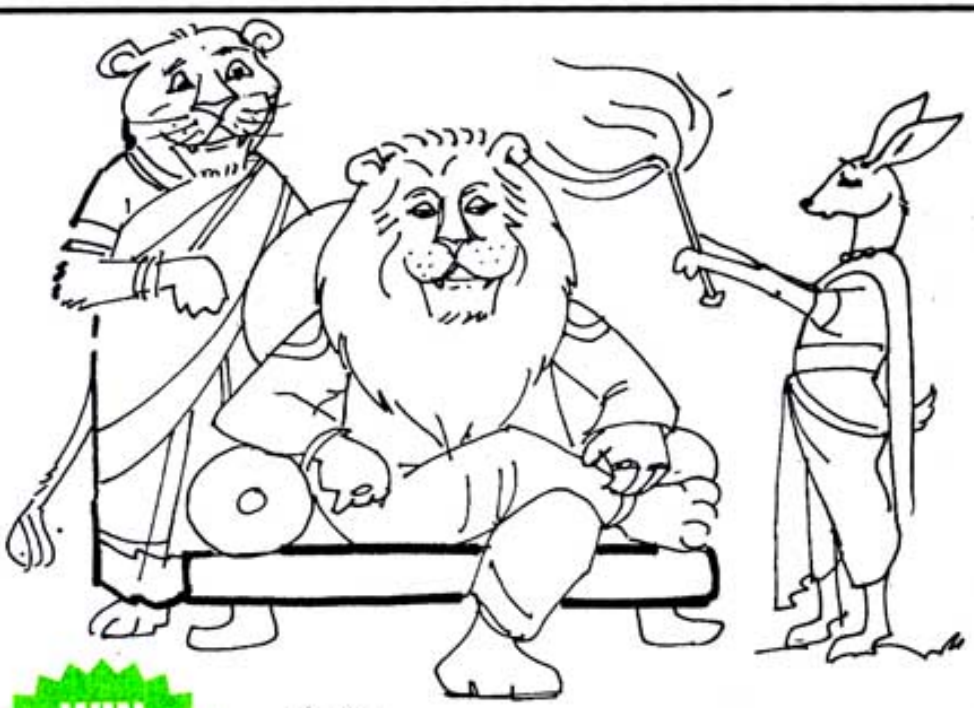
"The boss is where the remote is!" muttered Mama, grumbling under her breath, turning to the kitchen to get herself a cup of tea instead.

"So much for 21st century families!" mumbled Sister. ●

MY GOODNESS!

An adult shrew weighs only 2 gms but can eat upto three times its own weight in a day and cannot live for more than 2 hours without food.

- R. Sruthi, Std. IX
KV (CLRI), Chennai.



WIN A PRIZE

CARTOONS MADE EASY - 6

Lalitha Aunty

Dear children,

A majestic lion king, his most beloved queen the lioness, a docile deer, a scared lion cub and a mischievous monkey... See if you can capture the expressions shown by these animals in your sketch.

A typical illustration for a story around a jungle theme. But where is the story?

That is exactly what we want you to do. Frame a story around these two illustrations. Write it down and send it to us. We also want you to illustrate your story.

Use the illustrations given on this page as a guide for your art work. Your story and illustration must have the same characters as given here. Ofcourse you can give them names.

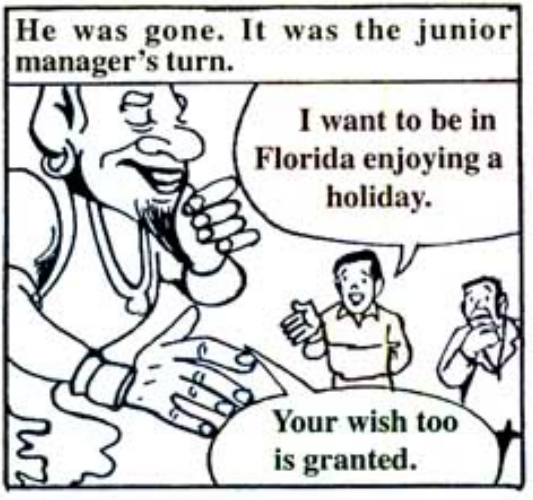
This is a contest. For the rules, turn to page 54.

Wish you good luck.

- Editor

THE BOSS

Story : B.SURYACHAKRADHAR
Secunderabad.
Illustration : Muthu



GOKULAM

GOKULAM

GOKULAM

GOKULAM

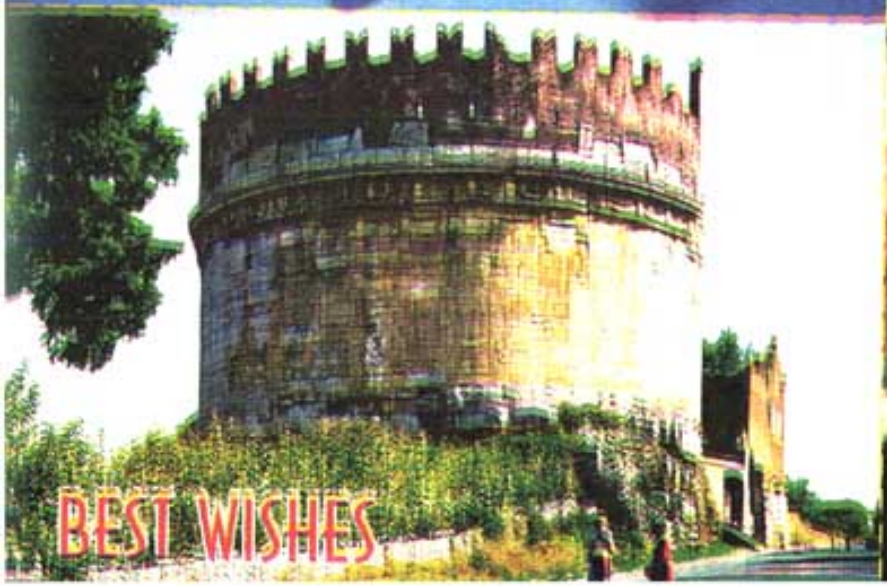
BEST WISHES

BEST WISHES

BEST WISHES

BEST WISHES

BEST WISHES


BEST WISHES

BEST WISHES

GOKULAM

GOKULAM

GOKULAM

GOKULAM

SERIAL

THE MAN WITH NO NAME

SANDHYA SRIDHAR

Chapter II

THE NEW SCHOOL

School had started and Eashwar was quite busy trying to adjust to the new atmosphere. That was the worst part of moving from city to city – trying to find your feet in a new teaching system and a new environment. Even the children seemed different here, for they talked differently and seemed to speak a different kind of English altogether! So between catching up with lessons and trying to make new friends, Eashwar had quite a bit on his plate without having to worry about the maali's strange cottage.

Things were settling down at home. Amma seemed quite happy, now that she had her furniture and her home in place, and was busy scouting around for a new job. "I don't mind even if it was something I could do part time," she had told Eashwar that morning, "That way, I could get to spend more time with you. Maybe I could put you into tennis training – now that I have time to drop you and pick you up."

Tennis was Eashwar's passion and he had picked up the rudiments of the game when his parents had been posted in Bangalore.

"That would be nice amma," Eashwar had replied, seeing visions of himself in white, smashing away with his tennis racquet. He had happily

THE DIALOGUE

"Wake up son! It's time for school!"
"I don't want to go to school, mom!"
"But, why?"
"All the children hate me and so do all the teachers."
"That's no reason why you shouldn't go to school."
"What's the reason then that I should go to school?"
"....."

What did mom say? Turn to page 47 to find out.

walked to school, still dreaming the same happy scenes of himself playing good tennis. School was just a couple of roads away and Eashwar loved the morning walk. The streets he had to walk through were off the main road and there was hardly any traffic which made things very pleasant.

ENTER MUTHU

The walk also gave Eashwar time to look around his neighbourhood and see if there were any other children he could make friends with. Sometimes, he felt quite lonely. But that morning, he had no time to indulge in such unhappy thoughts. The scamp of a son of their housemaid Meera was skipping towards him from the opposite direction. "Eashwar anna, Eashwar anna," he called out, in a sing-song voice. Eashwar grinned and asked him, "Hey Muthu! Aren't you going to school today?"

"No, no!" sang back Muthu, "I am taking a ho-li-day!"

"What a fellow you are," said Eashwar, "If you bunk school like this, how will you be good in studies?"

"Don't care, don't care," replied Muthu in the same sing-song manner, "I am going to become a maali like that fellow in your house..."

"Don't be disrespectful," scolded Eashwar, "What do you mean by calling him 'that fellow'. He's a much older man."

"So? What else do I call him? He has no name!" was Muthu's reply.

THE CALLER!

Polar bears are sometimes seen on land. A teacher at a school near the northerly Kara sea, USSR, heard the door bell ring and went to answer it. She found the caller was a huge polar bear leaning on the door bell!

- R. Sruthi, Std. IX, KV (CLRI), Chennai.

"What?" Eashwar was amused, "Just because you don't know his name it does not mean that he does not have one."

Muthu stopped his skipping and singing and tugged at Eashwar's hand. "You don't know about him," he half whispered, "He really has no name. Ask anyone…!"

"What's all this?" Eashwar was half-scared now, "Who is he?"

"No one knows," was Muthu's reply, "He's been the maali and caretaker of that house as far as anyone can remember. He has no relatives, no visitors and no friends." Muthu lowered his voice, "Everyone hereabouts are scared of him. He's a strange fellow. Why don't you ask him where his native place is? Go on, ask him…"

Eashwar had had enough. There was enough going on in school without this adding on to make his home life complicated.

THE BULLY

Though the day had begun well, it was probably the worst day in Eashwar's life. The school bully, had for some reason, taken it into his head that Eashwar was his victim for that day. Unfortunately for Eashwar, the school bully was in his class, in the fifth standard. He was also the same age as Eashwar but a head taller than Eashwar, a lot fatter and a lot stronger.

That morning, the moment Eashwar placed his school bag on his chair and turned, the bag went flying, scattering the books and his things all over. He turned to see the bully, who's name was Krishnan, grinning at him with a gloating look on his face. "Today, I sit here," said Krishnan.

"But that's my place," Eashwar tried standing his ground.

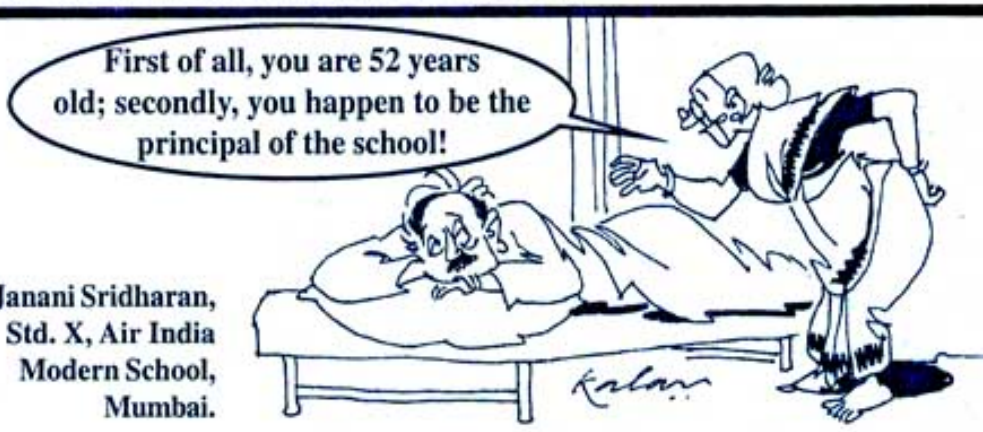
"I sit here today."

"Come on Eashwar," said Rahul, tugging his arm, "Don't say anything more. He's spoiling for a fight."

"Who's spoiling for a fight?" Krishnan was now advancing upon Rahul, his fists poised for a hit.

"No, no, don't hit him!" cried Eashwar, getting between them and got a punch in his side, for his pains. Rahul turned and fled.

"Don't mess with me," said Krishnan.



- Janani Sridharan, Std. X, Air India Modern School, Mumbai.

That was only the beginning. Break, lunch and P.T. classes were all hell for Eashwar. By the end of the day, he was in tears. But he could not cry, could he? He was a fairly big boy, and not a baby. Controlling his emotions, he somehow managed to finish school. Some of his new friends tried to comfort him, but all of them were scared of Krishnan. Eashwar did not have his own gang either. Helpless and unhappy, Eashwar walked home.

AMMA IS WORRIED

Amma was concerned. Eashwar did not look alright. In fact, he looked downright upset – was he crying? She could not make out. She had made his favourite tiffin of cheese toast and French fries, but Eashwar barely ate. He took his bag to his room and began to remove the books.

Amma went in after some time. "What is it, Eashwar?" she asked, putting her arms around him, "Are you okay?"

"I am okay, amma," Eashwar replied in a wobbly sort of a voice. Should he tell Amma? No this was his problem. "Nothing is the matter amma," he replied, again.

Suddenly, amma caught sight of his pencil box. The plastic box was smashed and crushed, where Krishnan had put his foot on it. Inside, a couple of pencils had broken and the pen nib was also in bad shape. She picked everything up and looked at them, one by one. "How did this happen?" she asked. Eashwar looked at her. "My friend stepped on them by mistake," he said. Amma did not look convinced. But she

did not persist. "The instructor at a tennis academy close by has asked us to

GAMES

People have played games since ages, while new games are being invented all the time.

In the 1500s BC, children in Ancient Egypt enjoyed playing a game of ninepins.

In the 500s BC, children in Ancient China were flying colourful kites.

come by sometime. Do you feel like going today?"

Eashwar brightened. "Yes amma, let's go."

THE MAALI AGAIN

Eashwar waited as Amma locked the front door. The maali was busy digging up a flower pot, loosening the soil around the plant. Suddenly Eashwar remembered his morning conversation with Muthu.

"What is your name maali?" he called out. The maali looked up in surprise. Seeing Eashwar, he grinned in a pleased sort of way.

"Why little master," he said, "Of what use is a name to me?"

Eashwar did not know what to say.

"Come Eashwar," said Amma, putting away the house keys in her purse, "Let's go."

Next time:

Tackling the school bully. What is, in a name?

A child in Ancient Greece played with this terracotta doll and horse in the 400s BC.

In Ancient Rome, children bowled hoops like these along the streets.

THE RHYMES WERE REAL!

Many of the playful jingles we have known since childhood had meanings that covered contemporary events. Here are some of them.

Humpty Dumpty - This is a rhyme about the fate that befell king Charles I of England during the days of the civil war in 1649. 'Humpty Dumpty had a great fall' implies the public execution that the king was subjected to, for bringing war upon his people.

Old king Cole - He was actually a rich, 17th century merchant named Colebrook.' His nickname was 'Old Cole' and he employed nearly 500 people. The term 'King' found favour with his employees. The rhyme tells us about the life of a gentleman of leisure.

Mary, Mary quite contrary - Mary in this poem was Mary, Queen of Scots. Legend has it that one of the presents she received from her first husband, the Dauphin of France was a dress. The

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Cent percent marks is not an uncommon dream. But to dream of having a 100% attendance record? In school? While most kids were faking stomach aches and temperature to get out of just one day of school?

Master Reuben Thangaranjan had a very special ambition : to achieve 100% attendance.

From Kindergarten to class XII, come rain,

embroidered pattern on the dress was similar to cockleshells. The 'pretty maids all in a row' were her ladies-in-waiting.

Little miss Muffet - Patience Muffet was the daughter of a 16th century entomologist, Dr.Thomas Muffet. His admiration for spiders was unbounded. The word 'tuffet' could mean a padded cushion.

Incey Wincey spider - The moral of this rhyme is to try and try again till you succeed. It goes back to the legend of King Bruce of Scotland who lost many battles and went into hiding. In his cave, the King saw a spider spinning its web. Now, the King did not like spiders - so he broke the web, but the spider started spinning another web immediately. The King was very impressed by the spider's determination. He was inspired to get another army together to fight and defeat his enemies.

Little Jack Horner - The 'plum' that Jack Horner pulled out of the Christmas pie was probably a present for the Tudor King of England, Henry VIII. The abbot of Glastonbury had hidden the title deeds of 12 manors in a pie and had sent his steward, Jack Horner, to deliver it to the King in London. Sly Jack managed to extract one of the deeds and the story goes that his descendants live on the property to this day!

- Sneh Pradhan, Std. VIII, MHMS, Kolkatta

Source : Find Out! (G.K. book)

---

bandh or shine, Reuben would trudge his way, weary or otherwise, from his home near the CPM headquarters to the Assembly of God Church School, Kolkata. Reuben made his dream come true. Not a day missed, in 12 years!

"When I was in class IV, I already had 100% attendance. So I thought, if I had managed for so long, I could manage the rest," smiled 18 year old Reuben now studying B.Com. at St. Xavier's college, Kolkata.

"Some days, like before the exams, I would be the only student around. The teacher would take the attendance and then I would go back home," Reuben told the press reporters at Kolkata on October 2, 2002.

- Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata.

LAUGH & BEAR IT!

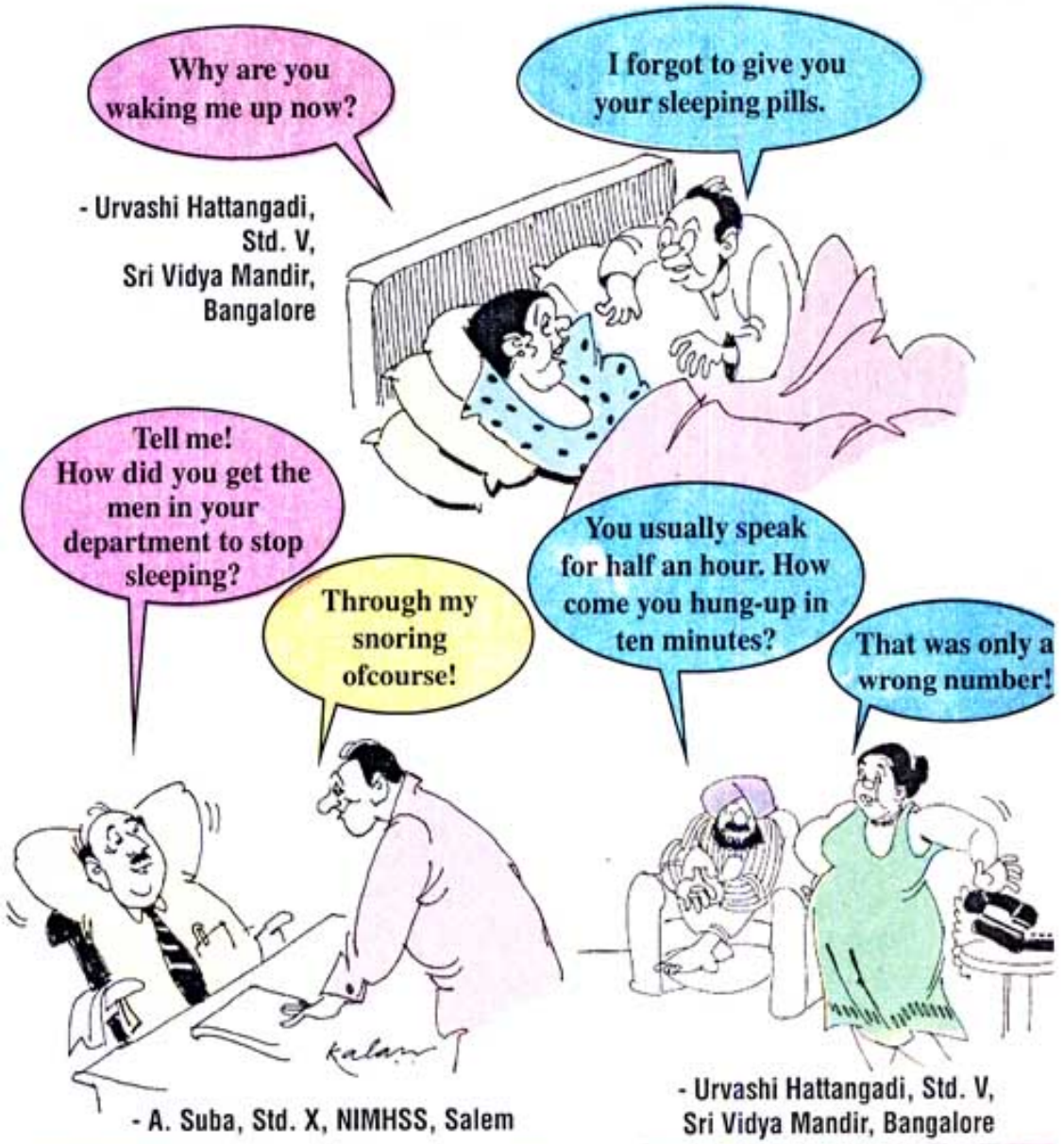
- L.R. Phanindra, Bangalore

- Janani Sridharan, Std. X, Air India Modern School, Mumbai

- L.R. Phanindra, Bangalore

A CAMERA FOR THE BLIND

A new camera designed by Japanese researchers could soon be a great help to the blind for crossing roads. The camera designed by researcher Dr. Shiyoma and his team takes images of the



- Urvashi Hattangadi, Std. V, Sri Vidya Mandir, Bangalore

- A. Suba, Std. X, NIMHSS, Salem

- Urvashi Hattangadi, Std. V, Sri Vidya Mandir, Bangalore

road and sends information to a small computer attached to it. After processing the data, the computer sends signals about the surroundings to the user. Both the camera and computer are small enough to be fitted on the forehead. The device is highly accurate in calculating a road's length and assessing the surroundings. The findings have appeared in the latest issue of the journal "measurement science and technology".

- Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata.

GRANDMA WORM

I AM CONFUSED GRANDMA!

Dear Grandma,

My handwriting is neat while I do my classwork or homework. But I am unable to write neatly and clearly during exams. Please help.

- A. Santhoshi, Chennai

Dear Santhoshi,

When you do your home work or even class work you are not bound by limitations of time. So you write slowly and neatly. But writing an examination is a time bound performance. Hence you start writing fast, sacrificing legibility in the process. You are also a bit tense, which takes a toll of your clear handwriting. To overcome the problem you have to practise writing fast. You can time your writing per page and improve slowly and steadily. For additional benefit, write questions and answers for different subjects while trying to improve your handwriting and speed of writing.

★★★

Why is it that I am reading only picture stories? How am I to get involved in reading other kinds of books?

- B. Adarshkumar, NewDelhi.

Dear Adarsh,

I am not surprised that you are interested only in picture stories. Many other children too are like you. This is because picture stories are easy to read and racy. The story moves fast, the pictures recreate the scenes in front of your eyes, like in a movie. But you should also remember that when a story is thus condensed out of proportion, many beautiful descriptions and inter-

STORY - CARTOON CONTEST

Rules :

* Your story and illustration must revolve around the characters given in the picture on page 39.
* Do not exceed 300 words while writing down your story.
* An illustration is a must. One illustration only.
* The illustration can be similar to the one

esting situations are lost. The pictures depict the scenes and there is no scope for imagination. So, one should gradually turn his or her attention to books which make better reading in many ways. They also improve your vocabulary. Try reading books which are meant for children below your age and then graduate into books of higher value. I'm sure that within a few weeks reading books will become part of your daily habit.

★★★

Some people preach that there is only one God. But as a Hindu I see people of my religion praying to different Gods. I am confused. Also, why do people pray so loudly?

- R. Deepa, Tambaram

Dear Deepa,

To answer your second question first, some people pray loudly for it helps them to concentrate on God, just as you read loudly for your exam. All religions, including Hinduism, say that there is only one God. According to Hinduism, God takes several forms and each person worships a form of his choice. Some religions say that God has no form at all. But all religions accept God. So what is important is that we should trust in God and pray for the well being of humanity. When we pray for others in addition to praying for ourselves, we naturally begin to love every body around us and we will soon begin to realise that God is nothing but love and kindness. But this attitude will come only later with maturity of mind. Right now we need a form to peg our hopes on and that form will be our God. It can be Muruga or Vishnu or Christ as per one's own preference.

Love
Grandma worm

given - a line drawing done with a dark, black ink pen / sketch pen.

* No colours on your illustration.
* The contest is for school going children only.
* Give details of name, age, class, school and residential address.
* Last date : **21.12.2002**
* Mention **Story - Cartoon Contest** on the envelope.
* A declaration that both the story and illustration are your original creations is a must.
* The editor's decision is final.

The prize winning entry (both story and illustration together) will be published in the February 2003 issue of your favourite magazine and will receive a set of attractive books.

GOOD LUCK!

POWERFUL POMEGRANATES

THE PLANT

The pomegranate, a spiny, deciduous shrub, has been valued for a long time. Originally from Persia (now Iran), it has been cultivated since antiquity. The sweet, fleshy pulp of its multiseeded fruit, classed as berries, once was used to make

wine. Pomegranate leaves grow in opposite pairs, and their flowers have from five to eight petals with numerous stamens.

THE POWER

Pomegranates have great nutritive value. They contain plenty of citric acid and are rich in Vitamins B and C.

According to Ayurvedic medicine, the power of dry pomegranate rind (the hard covering) mixed with little pepper and salt, serves as a good dentrifrice substance for cleaning the teeth! Regular application of this concoction is believed to strengthen the gums.

Pomegranate juice is an excellent nourishing and cooling beverage that helps to prevent heat strokes. It is also very effective in restoring energy and aids digestion when it is taken before a good meal. Finely powdered and roasted jaggery added to 25 ml of fresh pomegranate juice, along with a pinch of salt, relieves a person from indigestion, acidity and loose motions. For people with high blood pressure, half a cup of fresh juice taken twice a day helps. For people suffering from loss of memory power, a glass of fresh pomegranate juice mixed with honey can prove to be effective.

- M.K. Gautham Vijay, Std. VIII, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Coimbatore.

PRETTY PICTURE

S. KRITHIKA
Std.III, DAV School,
Chennai.

Dear Krithika,

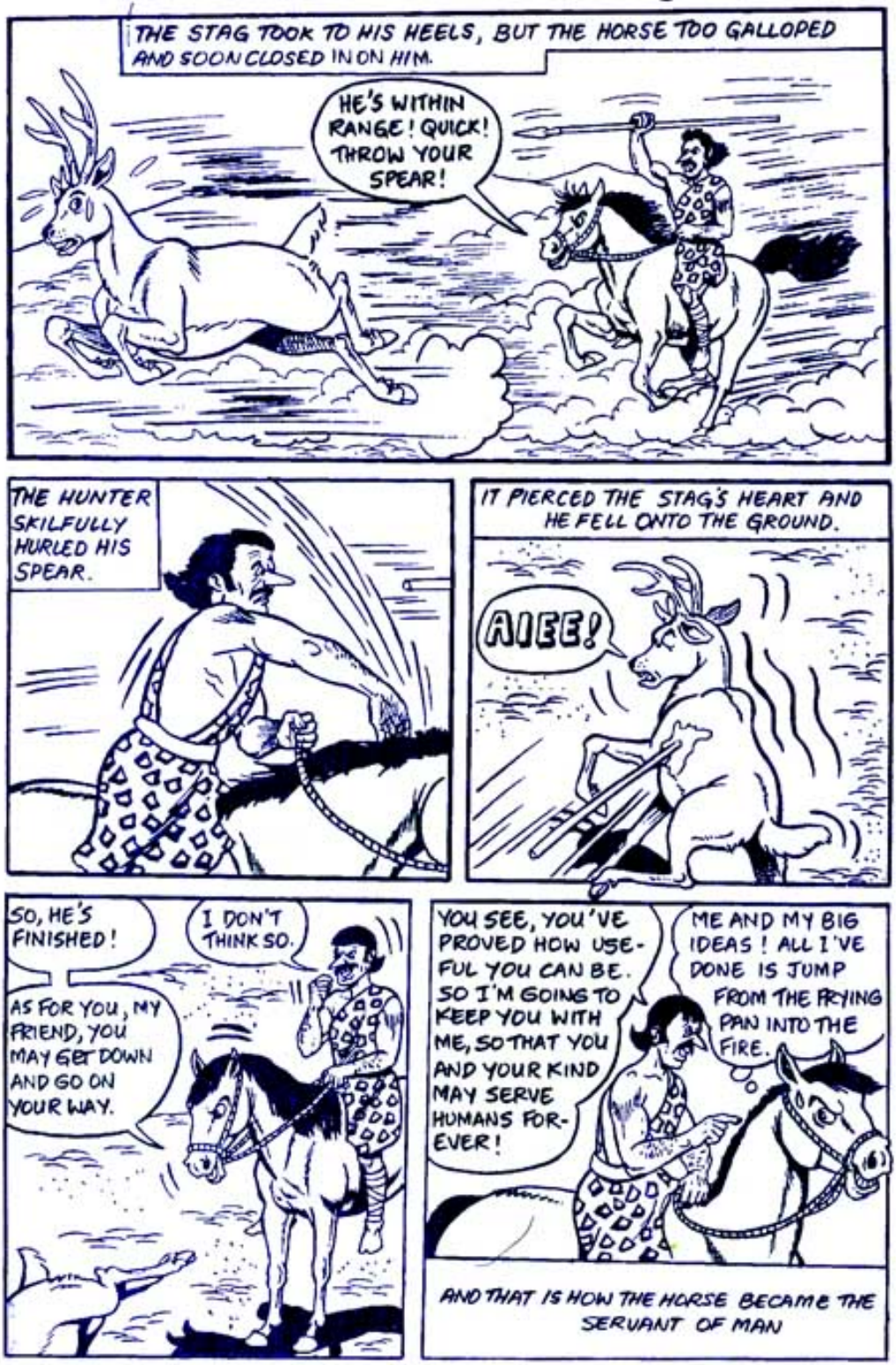
Pl. send us your residential address

- Editor

THE HORSE'S REVENGE

An Aesop's Fable Script and Illustrations : Prasad Iyer

THE HORSE TROTTED AWAY SWEARING REVENGE—
I'LL FIX THAT ROGUE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
THE HORSE QUICKLY WENT TO A HUNTER WHO LIVED IN A NEARBY CAVE.
HEY, MISTER! I CAN LEAD YOU TO A PLUMP STAG GRAZING NEAR BY. ARE YOU INTERESTED?
YOU BET, I AM!!
BUT STAGS ARE SWIFT RUNNERS. HOW WILL I GET CLOSE TO ONE?
NO PROBLEM! JUST GET ON MY BACK AND I'LL GET YOU WITHIN THROWING DISTANCE.
THE HUNTER FASHIONED A PAIR OF REINS AND MOUNTED THE HORSE.
READY? LET'S GO!
THE HORSE TOOK OFF LIKE A SCALDED CAT AND RACED TOWARDS THE MEADOW.
HEY!
THE STAG SAW THE HORSE AND THE RIDER APPROACHING AND TREMBLED WITH FEAR.
OH-OH! HERE COMES TROUBLE! I'D BETTER FLEE OR ELSE I'M A DEAD DUCK!


THE STAG TOOK TO HIS HEELS, BUT THE HORSE TOO GALLOPED AND SOON CLOSED IN ON HIM.
HE'S WITHIN RANGE! QUICK! THROW YOUR SPEAR!
THE HUNTER SKILFULLY HURLED HIS SPEAR.
IT PIERCED THE STAG'S HEART AND HE FELL ONTO THE GROUND.
AIEE!
SO, HE'S FINISHED!
I DON'T THINK SO.
AS FOR YOU, MY FRIEND, YOU MAY GET DOWN AND GO ON YOUR WAY.
YOU SEE, YOU'VE PROVED HOW USEFUL YOU CAN BE. SO I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU WITH ME, SO THAT YOU AND YOUR KIND MAY SERVE HUMANS FOREVER!
ME AND MY BIG IDEAS! ALL I'VE DONE IS JUMP FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE.
AND THAT IS HOW THE HORSE BECAME THE SERVANT OF MAN

ART GALLERY

PREETI J. NAMBIAR,
Std. X, K.V. Kannur, Kerala.

HEMA HARIDAS,
Std. IX, St. Paul's Boarding & Day School, Kolkata.

M. SWARNA,
Std. XII, Dharam Hinduja H.S.S., Chennai.

EXPERIENCE

ONE OR TWO?

Once, my elder brother and I went to a hotel and ordered for some tea. Just as the waiter was about to leave, my brother asked me if I wanted to order anything else. I asked the waiter to get me a rosagulla. I noticed that both my brother and the waiter began to giggle. It was then that I realised I was asking for one rosagulla but actually gesturing two with my fingers!

- C. Sarath Chandran,
Std. IX,
K.V. Wellington, Nilgiris.

Help! I am greying!

• **V. Deepa, Chennai-20**

? I am studying in tenth standard. I am having a lot of grey hairs. How is it caused? Please suggest a treatment line to control them.

! The hair has a tendency to lose its natural colour with advancing age. But premature greying, as you have, is defined as grey hair onset before late teens. Grey hair is caused by the gradual reduction of melanin production over a period of time within the affected hair follicle. The melanocytes in the hair follicles produce less and less melanin, and the result is a loss of color strength in the hair. The time and speed of grey hair onset is due in part to genetics. Certainly early onset grey hair development runs in families. A faulty diet and mental worries are two other causes for premature greying of hair. It is mainly due to the lack of vitamin B complex, iron, copper and iodine in the daily diet. Sometimes excessive use of synthetic shampoos may cause the same problem. Premature greying due to genetic condition has no specific treatment. If diet is the cause, vitamin tablets containing pantothenic acid, para-amino benzoic acid and inositol are useful to control and prevent further development of grey hair. Adequte intake of vegetables and fruits may also help.

BEST CITIES!

Melbourne and Vancouver are the two best cities in the world to live in, according to an Economist Intelligence Unit Survey. The survey found that Australian and Canadian cities featured prominently at the top of the rankings.

- Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata.

• **Neelima Chakraborty, West Bengal**

? What is the cause of and remedy for heart attack?

! Our heart supplies blood to all of our body parts from its left lower chamber whereas it gets blood for its own use from two tiny arteries called coronary arteries which wrap around the surface of the heart. When these arteries are healthy and have no blockage, blood flows through the heart muscle easily. As a result, the heart muscle gets enough oxygen it needs to do its job. When conditions like smoking, diabetes, high blood cholesterol or high blood pressure damage the artery wall, a fatty material called "plaque" builds up in the wall and the lumen of the artery gets narrowed. As the plaque build-up increases and partially obstructs the artery, blood flow to the heart is reduced. This condition is referred to as 'ischaemia' or 'angina'. The patient may feel chest pain or discomfort over the chest for a few minutes on exertion. On taking rest, pain disappears. It is considered as a red signal prior to heart attack.

When a partially obstructed artery is completely blocked by the plaque or a blood clot, blood flow to a part of the heart completely stops. The heart cells are now deprived of oxygen and they undergo death. As a consequence, the pumping ability of heart is reduced or even stopped. This is called 'infarction' or 'heart attack'. Now the patient feels severe chest pain, sweating, giddiness, vomiting and difficulty in breathing. Then he/she becomes unconscious. If he/she receives prompt medical attention, he/she can survive.

There are three ways of treating a heart attack. Medicines are given to reduce the workload of the heart so that it can cope with a reduced blood flow. Angioplasty is another line of treatment to improve the blood flow to the heart muscle but it is useful for selected patients only, not for all. Coronary bypass surgery can be done mostly for all heart attack patients. It creates a new route for blood flow to the heart muscle. It gives the patient a new life too.

THE BEST FOOT-WORK!

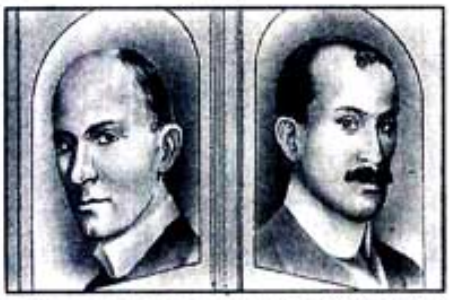
Walking back to the pavilion!

- Varshitha Parthasarathy, Std. XI, Sri. Jayaendra Mat. H.S.S., Trichy

NEVER LOSE HOPE

Many scientists and inventors had very humble beginnings but became leading stars in the sky of science.

Two brothers started a cycle repair workshop to make a living. Soon they began manufacturing cycles. But that is not



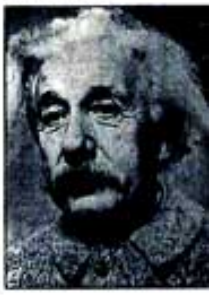
all. They created a miracle in 1903 at Kitty Hawk in USA. They are the Wright brothers who made the first aircraft which started a new era.

John Baird, the inventor of television hated school. He was, however, a curious student and one of his early inventions was an electrically heated socks for keeping feet warm during winter.

Thomas Alva Edison, the great inventor was considered too stupid to be taught in the school. He made his living in his early days by selling newspapers, fruits and candy at the railway stations and in trains.

George Stephenson, inventor of the steam engine was very poor. He

earned his money to educate himself by mending watches and cobbling shoes in his spare time.



Albert Einstein, could not talk until he was four years old and some thought he may even be dumb. "You will not amount to anything Einstein"- that was the remark of a school teacher about Albert Einstein. ***And so, never lose hope.***

- S.P. Shantha Kumari, Std X, K.V.No:1, Panambur, Mangalore.

THE PSYCHOLOGY

Psychiatrist: Tell me, do you normally stir your coffee with your right hand?

Patient: Yes, I do.

Psychiatrist: Mmm- that's odd. Most people use a spoon!

- K. Sree Harish, Std VIII, Mother's Integral School, Hyderabad.

AN EASY TEST

I. A REAL MIX-UP!

The following proverbs have got mixed up. Their first halves do not match their second. Can you write each proverb completely and correctly?

1. All that glitters makes the heart grow fonder.
2. Honesty is in the eating.
3. All's well that is not gold.
4. Absence is the best policy.
5. The proof of the pudding ends well.

- Suryakumari Dennison, Bangalore.

II. PARLIAMENTS

Match the countries to their different parliaments :

A	B
a) England	1. Diet
b) USA	2. Reichstag
c) Russia	3. Parliament
d) Japan	4. National Assembly
e) France	5. Congress
f) Germany	6. Supreme Soviet

- Priya Moorthy, Std. IX, Presidency School, Bangalore.

III a. THE RELATIONSHIP

Vijay says, "Viju's mother is the only daughter of my mother". How are Vijay and Viju related to each other?

b. WHO IS THE SHORTEST?

Vipul is taller than Hans. Hans is taller than Anand. Alok is taller than Ashok. Ashok is taller than Hans. Who among them is the shortest?

- M. Vinodh, Vriddachalam.

IV. BUILD ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Use the following clues to fill up

CHILDREN, MUCK AND ALLERGY

Research team leader Dr. Charlotte Bram Fahria and his team at the institute of Social and Preventive Medicine based in, Switzerland have

the grid :

a. an area of protected forests where wild animals live in safety

b. Preservation and protection of nature

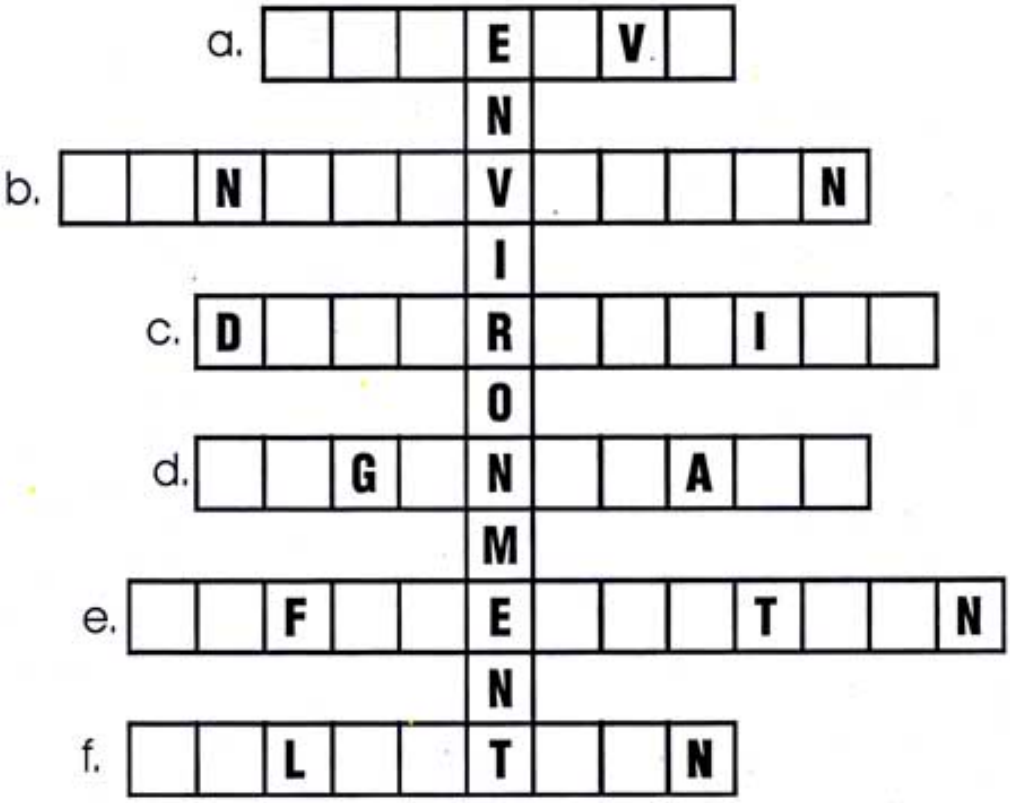
c. an evil act against nature

d. to re-create or bring back to existence

e. this is to be avoided to protect forests

f. the greatest threat of today

- B. Adarshkumar, New Delhi.



found that children from extremely clean homes are likely to develop asthma and hay fever than those who grow up on farms or in families that allow a bit of dirt in the house! Dirt and manure may be beneficial because they are swarming with bacteria, which can help an infant's immune system to mature and develop tolerance, instead of developing allergies to environmental substances like pollen and animal dander.

The findings have appeared in the latest issue of "The New England Journal of Medicine."

- Suresh K. Anjum, Kolkata

VIEWPOINT

NEED OF THE HOUR

India is a secular country. Why do we have these Hindu - Muslim riots? In Gujarat, some people were burnt alive for the sole reason of belonging to the Hindu community. Another persons's home was turned to dust because he was a Muslim.

We are destroying our motherland's dignity and pride with our own hands. Our politicians seem more interested in retaining their posts rather than taking the initiative to solve these problems.

Donations and just a few words of sympathy won't help. The need of the hour is to destroy internal corruption and terrorism that exists in every state.

- Neelima Chakraborthy, Std XI,
St. Joseph's H.S., Darjeeling.

NEED FOR PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

'Communication' is a word so often heard that it is likely to be misunderstood or to have lost its meaning.

We tend to think that communication is restricted to long, boring speeches, lectures or seminars.

Let us not forget that communication can take place even across the breakfast table, across the front seat of an automobile or just about anywhere. Communication is sharing of ideas.

While we take for granted the transmission of a programme on television as a medium of communication, we seem to have lost the time and ability to communicate with people who live around us.

Through open communication, we understand each other's thoughts and we are often able to find solutions to many of our problems. It also improves existing realtionships and develops new ones. It helps to widen our mental ho-

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DINING TABLE!

A Victorian water lily can have leaves which serve as a dining table for two!

- Suresh K. Anjum,
Kolkata

rizon.

Let us hence make the effort to communicate and improve ourselves in this art, for, it is not only educative but also entertaining.

- Deepa Ravishanker, Std. XII, BMCC College, Pune.

NEED FOR QUALITY ADVERTISEMENTS

The trend in the field of advertising has totally changed today. The lure of consumerism is so great these days, that it results in a strong desire to go up the social ladder, whether one has the economic base or not.

People are tempted to buy all the goods advertised. Even the most trivial things are made to appear attractive, important and essential when they are recommended by film stars or sports personalities.

Advertisers seem to know the knack of selling goods at high rates, to a large number of people. Or, they simply announce 'free' items to go with the goods they sell. Don't they know that, if their product is of good quality, it can be sold without the temptation of a gift?

Often, sales promotion campaigns send in wrong messages, compromising on the quality of the advertisement. Children and youngsters get distracted and disillusioned by these advertisements. They are even led astray by the advertisements that appear for cigarettes, liquor etc.

It is for these reasons that even ad-

vertisements should be censored and be used only for good causes.

-R.Pavithra, Std.X, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy.

WOW!

One day in May 1935, the American athlete Jesse Owens broke six world records in less than an hour. He completed in record time 100 yards, 220 and 200 metres. He jumped the longest jump and finally ran the fastest 220 yards and 200 metres hurdles!

- Abhishek Gopal, Std. VIII, St. John's Vestry Anglo Indian School, Trichy

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS

I. A REAL MIX-UP!

1. All that glitters is not gold.
2. Honesty is the best policy.
3. All's well that ends well.
4. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
5. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

II. PARLIAMENTS

a - 3, b - 5, c - 6, d - 1, e - 4, f - 2.

III. a. Viju is Vijay's niece. **b.** Anand

IV. BUILD ON THE ENVIRONMENT

a.	R	E	S	**E**	R	V	E						
				N									
b.	C	O	N	S	E	R	**V**	A	T	I	O	N	
							I						
c.	D	E	S	T	**R**	U	C	T	I	O	N		
					O								
d.	R	E	G	E	**N**	E	R	A	T	E			
					M								
e.	D	E	F	O	R	**E**	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
						N							
f.	P	O	L	L	U	**T**	I	O	N				

CLEVER DIPALI!

Teacher : Dipali, why do we see lightning first and hear thunder only aftewards?

Dipali : Because our eyes are in front and our ears are at the back!

- Nita R.Koyando, Std.X,
Atomic Energy Central School, Mumbai.

GOKULAM - BSA
The monthly magazine for children
Your best friend for life
CONTEST

QUIZ TIME

"Hey! Look man! They're bringing a 2-in-one."

"Hey! What's in that big box, yaar?"

"It's a projector."

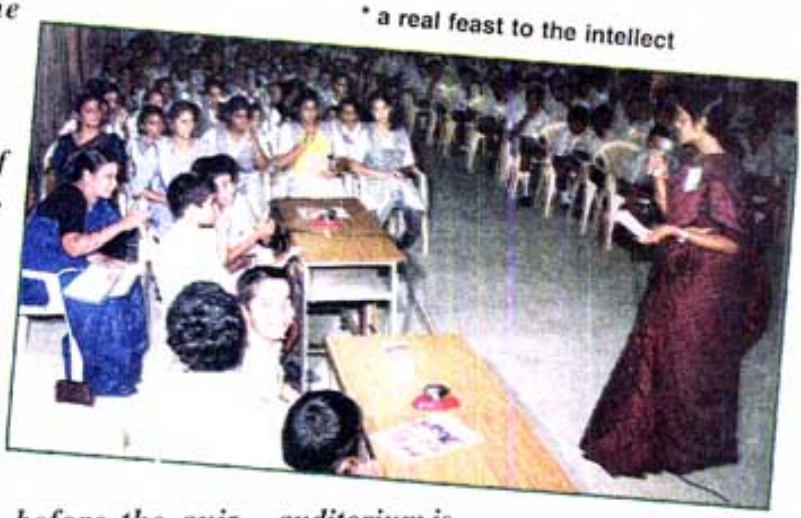
Happy excited voices can be heard as we make our way across the playground to the auditorium.

★ ★ ★

A group of earnest, serious youngsters near the gate - busily browsing through books - cramming up as much information as they can before the quiz starts. The audience is seated even as we try to get ourselves ready for the GOKULAM - BSA quiz...

★ ★ ★

Its been raining! Its been pouring! Will the Quiz programme be held at all? Is it going to be cancelled? Hope not! Lots of calls between the organisers! Hurrah! The programme is on! We make our way across slushy, water logged roads to reach the sprawling campus. The auditorium is huge. Outside, a row of gleaming BSA cycles catch the eye all ready and awaiting eager youngsters who want to have a test ride....



* a real feast to the intellect

SUMI REPORTS

* teacher participation

The auditorium is packed with children. The stage is all set with desks, mikes, a screen and projector and banners in place. A group of fifteen children, comprising of five teams are ready. The leader of each group walks up to draw from a lot. The children take their places. The five teams (A to E) are ready. It is now the teachers' turn. Five teachers volunteer to be part of the programme. Their places too are determined by a draw of lots.

The quiz master **Sujatha Jaishankar** makes her grand entry. The scorer **Anandhi Karthick** is introduced.

The show is now in their hands. Sujatha speaks :

"Hello everyone. It feels great to be with all of you. This is a very different kind of quiz - a FUN QUIZ ... We are going to have a lot of fun while we learn. I thank your school for giving us a chance to be here with you..."

★ ★ ★

School : **Jaigopal Garodia Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar**

Winners : **R.Vidyasagar, B.Vamsi Krishna, J. Gowri**

From the desk of the student reporters :

The quality and the standard of the quiz was of high order. The questions covered a wide range of topics. The quiz master had an excellent rapport with the participants and the audience. The programme was a real feast to the intellect.

While the first round ONE WAY TRAFFIC had a set of questions for each team (the team could choose the topic), the second round FASTEST FINGER FIRST was a buzzer round. This round proved to be very exciting.

Teachers participated in the quiz and performed for two rounds. These rounds were full of fun. The teachers did their best and were encouraged by the student audience.

The audience too had their share. A special round for them and children who answered correctly were given a cap.

- Indira, Preethi, Sonu and Divya

★ ★ ★

School : **SBOA School and Junior College, Anna Nagar.**

Winners : **S.Vinay Prashanth,**

Arindham Ghosh, Atluri Shobana

From the desk of the student reporter :

The Gokulam - BSA Quiz Time contest was held in our school auditorium on October 26th 2002.

This fun quiz consisted of nine action packed rounds and one round at the end for the audience.

With five teams of three members in each, backed up by one teacher for every team, the quiz was filled with excitement and thrill from start to finish.

* building up excellent rapport...

The best round in the show was **TWIDDLE-A-RIDDLE** - a set of strange, interesting riddles.

As the show came to an end, copies of Gokulam were distributed to all the participants and the audience.

- K. Aishwarya Raghavi, Std. VIII.

★ ★ ★

School **: Chettinad Vidyashram, R.A.Puram.**

Winners **: G.Ajay Rao, Akshay Meetal, Shreyas Bhat**

From the desk of the student reporter :

The Gokulam - BSA Quiz contest had a wide variety of rounds, each one very special and interesting in its own way. Inviting teachers to be part of the teams and involving them exclusively in two rounds, was a highly innovative idea. The participants were mentally challenged by thought provoking questions. They were smart and answered quite a few with impeccable ease.

The teachers participated with a lot of interest and related well to the students.

The audio and video clippings were carefully chosen from a variety of cultures and topics. The audience were a bit over-enthusiastic. Despite interruptions from them, the quiz was a grand success.

- A. Manisha, Std. XI.

* the participants... (Jaigopal Garodia)

* the winners!

Gokulam thanks

TI Cycles of India, Principals of the institutions, Teachers, Student and Teacher participants, Audience and Student Reporters, Quiz Master and Scorer... for their continued support.

* the participants... (SBOA)

* the winners!

Photos : Venkatesh

• the participants... (Chettinad Vidyashram)

• the winners!

Highlights of the Gokulam - BSA Quiz Time Contest

★ Entertaining, Innovative and Educative

★ Ten rounds with a variety of questions drawn from a wide range of subjects

★ Teacher participation - each team has a teacher as a fall back option (when permitted ofcourse!)

★ Test ride camps promoted by TI Cycles of India

★ Attractive prizes offered by TI Cycles :

- 3 bicycles at each venue for the winners
- 3 school bags at each venue for the runners
- T-shirts for other participants
- Gifts for teacher participants
- Caps distributed as freebies for the audience.

More Schools Next Month

* S.M.Krishna

* Narendra Modi

A MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

* Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

After the communal riots in Gujarat, the chief minister of that state Narendra Modi, dissolved the assembly and opted for early elections. The election commission, an independent body incharge of conducting elections, said that the atmosphere was not conducive and postponed elections for the state assembly. Narendra Modi and the B.J.P. party to which he belongs opposed this view and pointed out that elections must be held within six months according to our constitution. On the other hand, the election commission felt that this constitutional directive will not hold good to a dissolved assembly. The matter was referred to the supreme court which ruled that the election commission was right. But it also said that elections to the state assembly must be held as early as possible, with the cooperation of all concerned. Accordingly the election commission has announced the dates for elections.

★ ★ ★

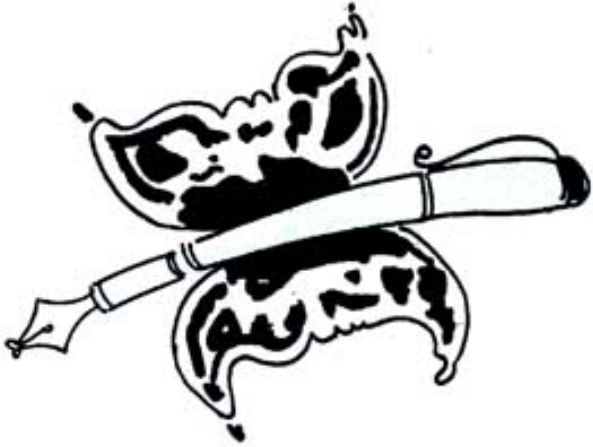
In another important judgement, the supreme court ordered the Karnataka government to release Cauvery waters to Tamilnadu, a riparian state. The Karnataka government did not do so, pleading that it had very little water in it's reservoirs and that a section of the farmers of Karnataka, are opposed to the release of water to Tamilnadu. The Tamilnadu government took serious note of this defying attitude and initiated contempt of court proceedings. Finally, the chief minister of Karnataka S.M.Krishna had to tender an unconditional apology to the supreme court and carry out it's order.

★ ★ ★

There has been a lot of dilly dallying in the formation of a ministry in Kashmir. The congress and the People's Democratic Party had to get together to form a coalition government. But with both parties staking their claim for chief ministership, it looked as if Kashmir was headed for President's rule. Finally the congress yielded and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has become the chief minister. Soon after assuming charge, he has been releasing several militants, perhaps with a view to create good will and consequent peace in the state. But will the militants respond positively? That is the current million dollar question!

LETTER BOX

DELIGHTFUL AND THOUGHT - PROVOKING



✉ Your book is simply amazing and lacks nothing. It is really superb!

- Sadiqul Haq, Age 15, Gulbarga

✉ I have started reading books only in the recent past. So, I cannot write any reviews as yet (I refer to the Book Review Contest that you had announced). But I want to write my review about the October issue of Gokulam:

There are many stories, articles, jokes, poems, tips for cooking and general knowledge tips in this issue. One of my favourite articles in the October issue was about Lord Ganesha. It is true that we spoil the beaches and kill the fish and other living things by immersing the idols in the seas and oceans. This does not make sense. I agree that in future, simple pujas using idols made out of clay should be performed by all.

- S. Sruti, Std V.
St. Francis School, Coimbatore

✉ The article on the life of the ornithologist Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali was very interesting. The incident in the 'PARENT PAGE' written by Hema Ravi brought tears to my eyes. The last part of the 'Holiday Adventure' by Radha Padmanabhan was equally thrilling just like its previous ones.

Sruthi V. Ramanan, Chennai

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam and had started reading Gokulam five years ago. Today I have become a fan of the magazine and am always waiting for its arrival. The articles, stories and other knowledge - promoting pieces are simply wonderful. The pieces of general knowledge that the November 2002 issue had were very very nice. I congratulate Gokulam for its success and achievements. Please try to make Gokulam a weekly or fortnightly as I read the whole magazine in a day or two.

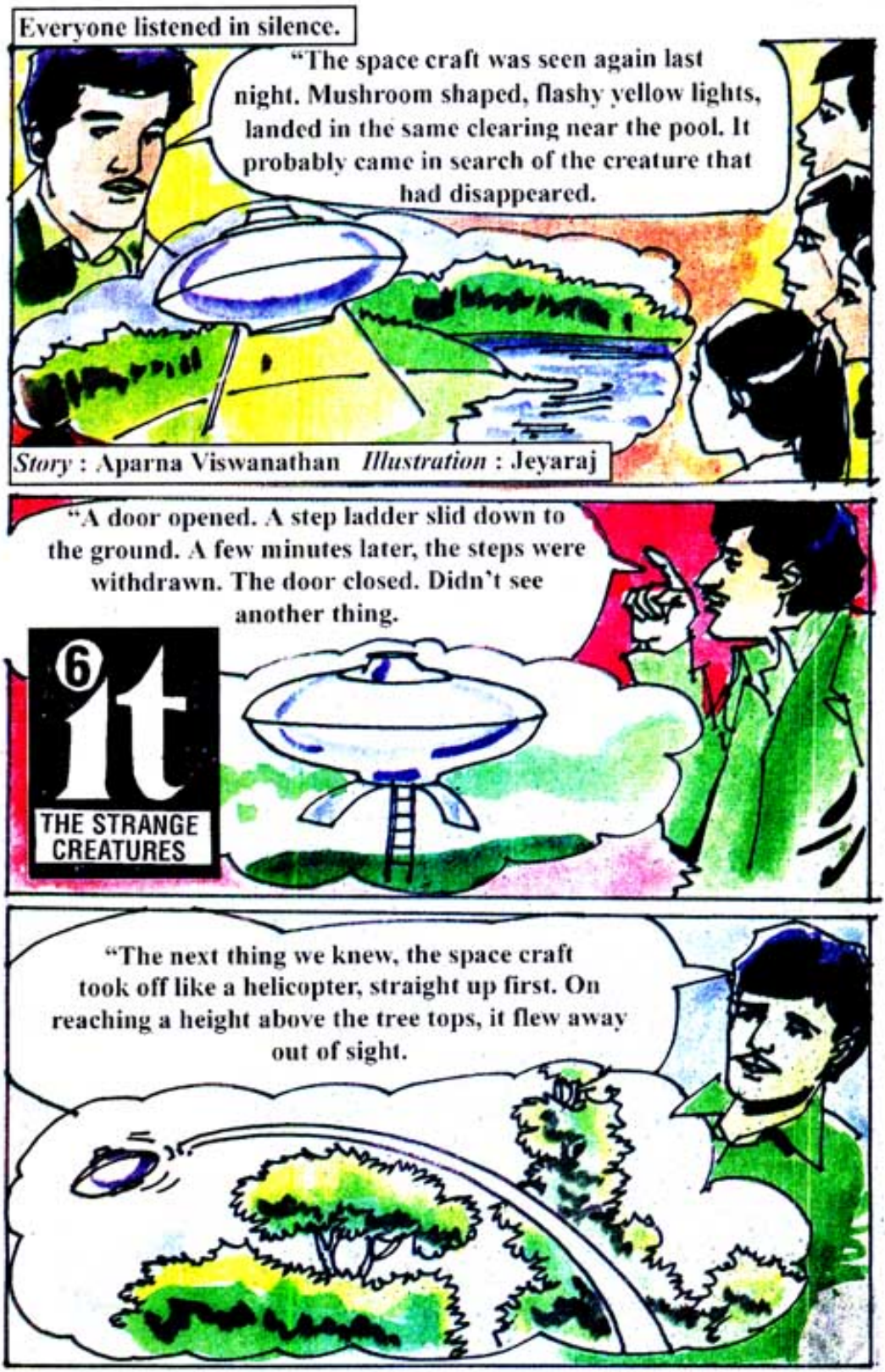
- Neha Moondra, Std IX, Gujarat

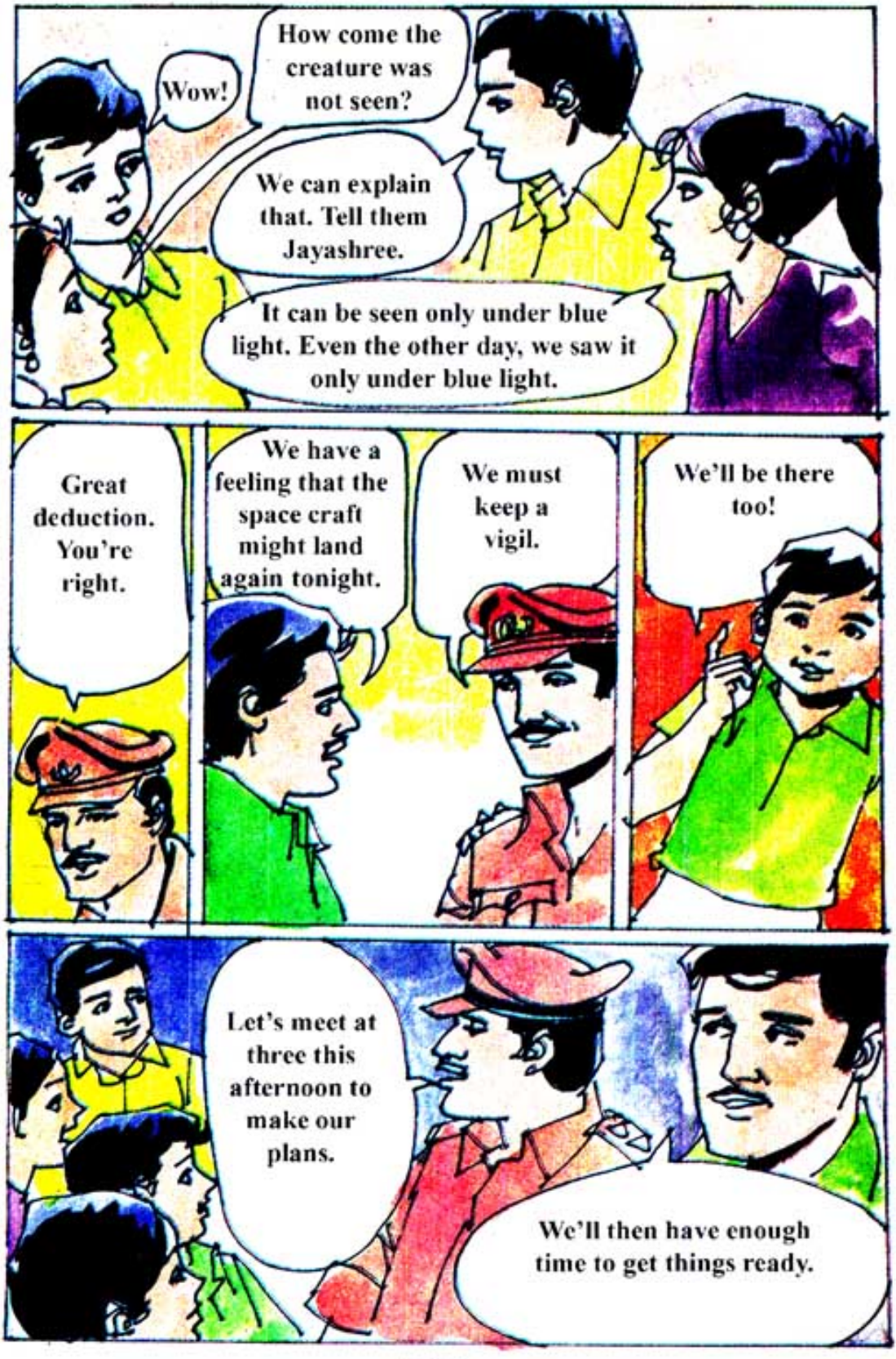
✉ I used Gokulam to do my English project. The topic for the English Project was '4 places you would like to visit.' I wrote my project referring to 'Countries and their children.' Keep up the good work.

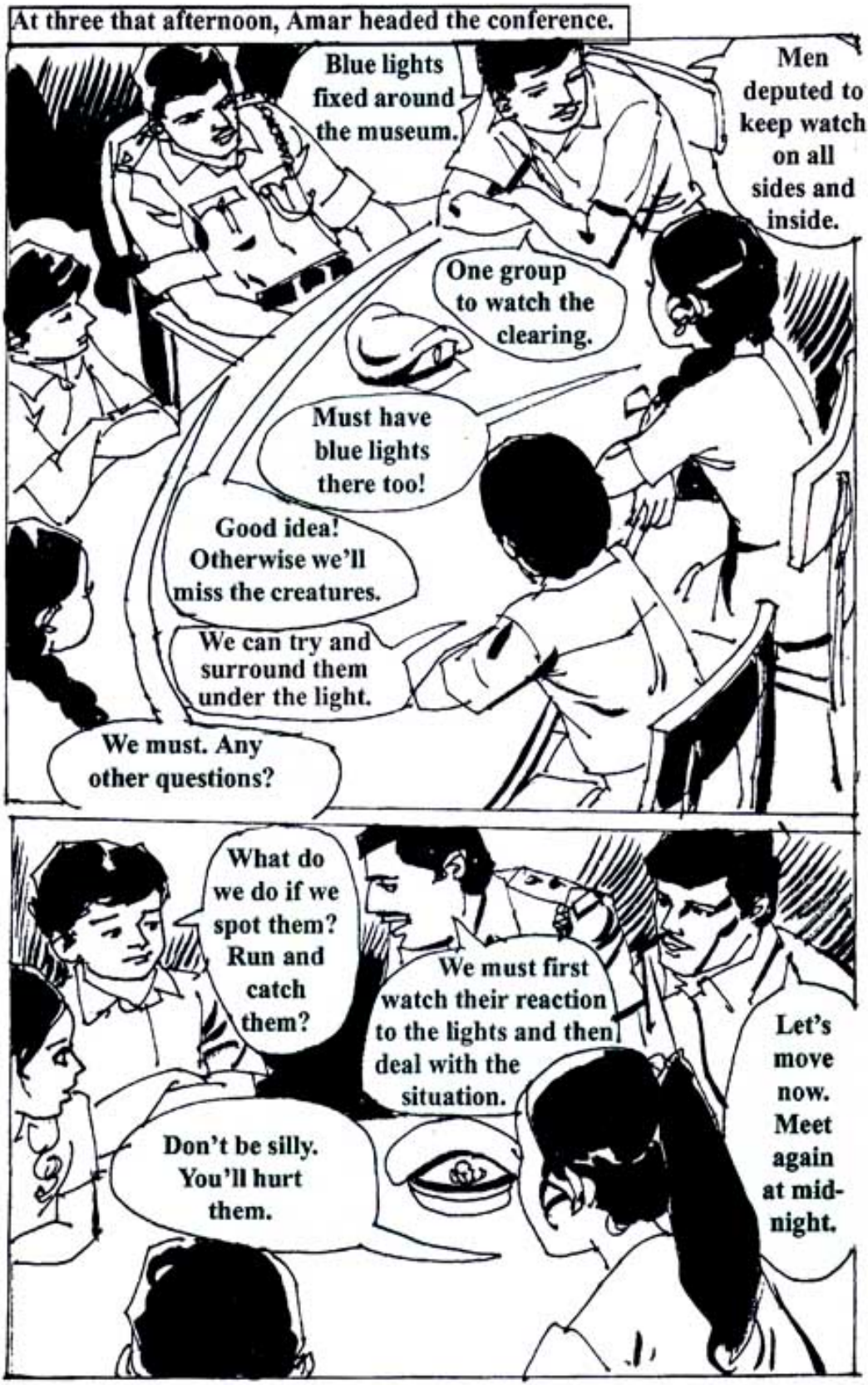
- Michael, Std VI, Chennai

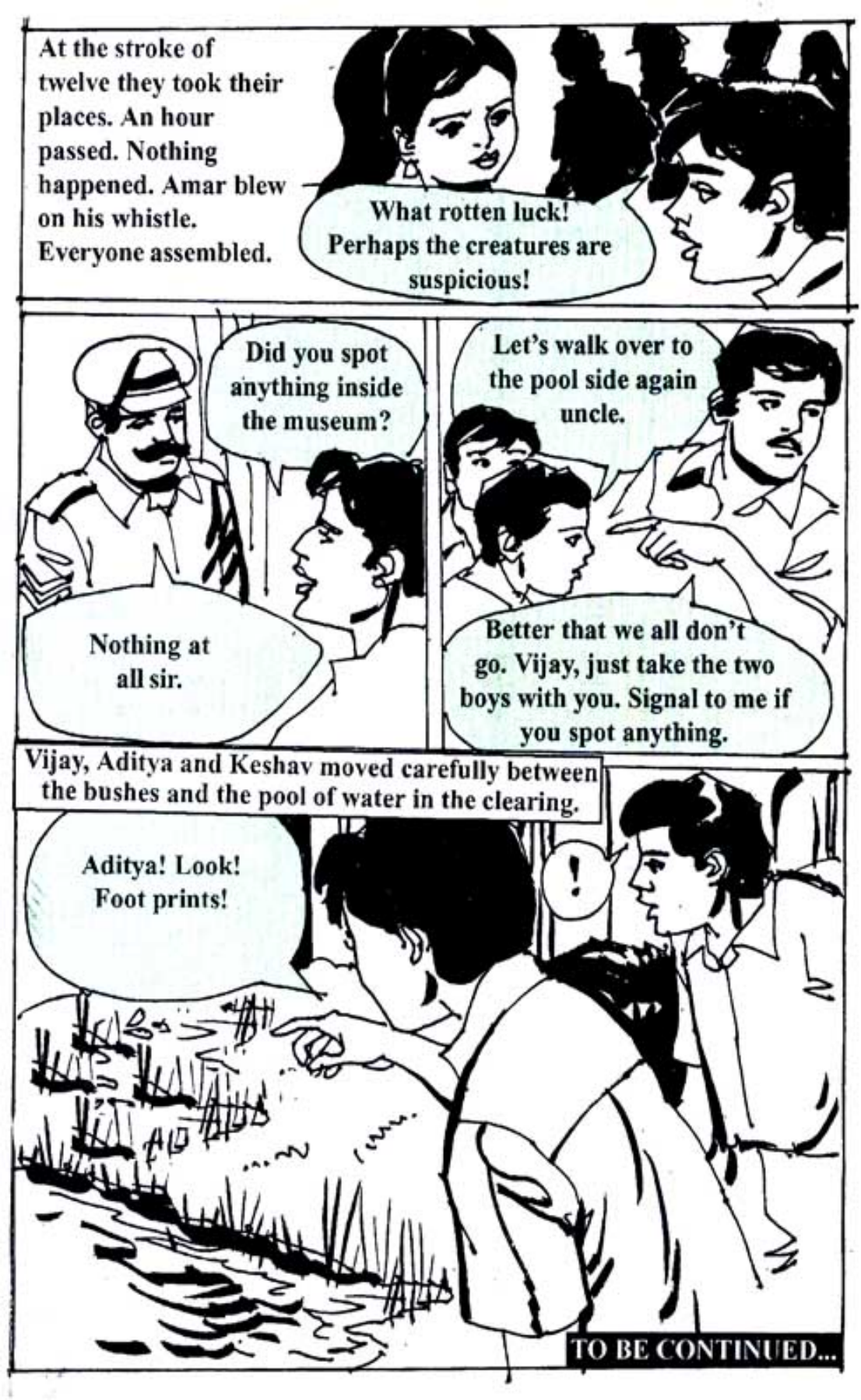
✉ I had the great chance to read Gokulam through my grandma. I feel the stories in the book are really delightful with thought provoking values. This proves that the poems and stories are selected for publication because of their unique perspective and artistic vision. Every step that you take in printing and designing this book conveys your craftsmanship and careful service. Hats off to you!

- A. Niranjani Raj, Panrut


Everyone listened in silence.
"The space craft was seen again last night. Mushroom shaped, flashy yellow lights, landed in the same clearing near the pool. It probably came in search of the creature that had disappeared.
Story : Aparna Viswanathan Illustration : Jeyaraj
"A door opened. A step ladder slid down to the ground. A few minutes later, the steps were withdrawn. The door closed. Didn't see another thing.
6
it
THE STRANGE CREATURES
"The next thing we knew, the space craft took off like a helicopter, straight up first. On reaching a height above the tree tops, it flew away out of sight.


Wow!
How come the creature was not seen?
We can explain that. Tell them Jayashree.
It can be seen only under blue light. Even the other day, we saw it only under blue light.
Great deduction. You're right.
We have a feeling that the space craft might land again tonight.
We must keep a vigil.
We'll be there too!
Let's meet at three this afternoon to make our plans.
We'll then have enough time to get things ready.

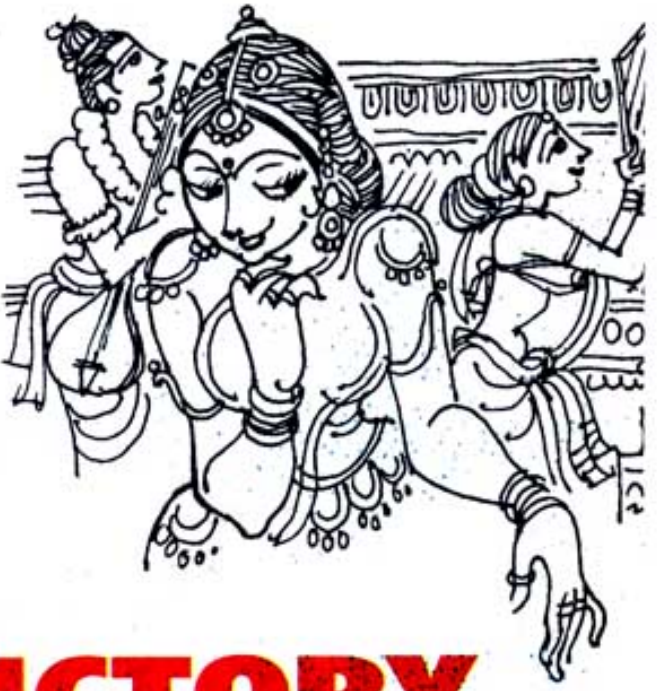

At three that afternoon, Amar headed the conference.
Blue lights fixed around the museum.
Men deputed to keep watch on all sides and inside.
One group to watch the clearing.
Must have blue lights there too!
Good idea! Otherwise we'll miss the creatures.
We can try and surround them under the light.
We must. Any other questions?
What do we do if we spot them? Run and catch them?
We must first watch their reaction to the lights and then deal with the situation.
Let's move now. Meet again at mid-night.
Don't be silly. You'll hurt them.


At the stroke of twelve they took their places. An hour passed. Nothing happened. Amar blew on his whistle. Everyone assembled.
What rotten luck! Perhaps the creatures are suspicious!
Did you spot anything inside the museum?
Nothing at all sir.
Let's walk over to the pool side again uncle.
Better that we all don't go. Vijay, just take the two boys with you. Signal to me if you spot anything.
Vijay, Aditya and Keshav moved carefully between the bushes and the pool of water in the clearing.
Aditya! Look! Foot prints!
!
TO BE CONTINUED...

Savitri stood firm in her decision to marry Satyavan - with whom she had fallen in love- even after she heard from Sage Narada that Satyavan would live only for a year more. She had visibly been disinterested in viewing the portaits of the various valiant kings that were shown to her by the sage.

Finally, she had also got her maid to show her parents the portrait of Satyavan that she had herself sketched.

What follows is an interesting story...



A VICTORY OVER YAMA

Savitri married Satyavan. She had immense faith in Goddess Savitri, by whose grace she was born. She knew she had the Devi's blessings.

The year passed quickly. Satyavan ofcourse did not know what was destined for him. One day Sage Narada came to the forest where Savitri lived. Savitri fell at his feet and sought his blessings. "Oh revered Sage! I have been worshipping Goddess Savitri day and night. Yet I feel scared. Please bless me, so that I may have the courage to save my husband from the God of Death."

"Savitri! You are a chaste woman.

THE LARGEST FLYING BIRD

The largest bird cannot fly. This is the African ostrich, measuring upto 2.5 metres in height and weighing more than 135 kilograms.

The birds which can fly and are the next largest in size are Albatross and Candor. They weigh upto 13 kilograms. The wandering Albatross has a wing span greater than 3.5 metres.

- Visalakshi Ramani, Coimbatore.

You have lived according to Dharma. The year is almost over now. Take a vow. Worship Devi Savitri for the next three days. Fast on these three days. Follow Satyavan whenever and wherever he goes. Have faith. I bless you my dear child" said Narada.

Savitri took the vow and began to observe the fast. She always stayed close to her husband.

It was the morning of the third day of the fast. Satyavan took his axe and went out. Savitri followed him.

"Savitri! I shall return soon with some firewood. You must stay at home with father and mother and not follow me. You have not eaten for three days. You are sure to be tired" advised Satyavan.

Savitri did not want to leave her husband alone. "I am not tired. Please let me accompany you to the forest" she begged. "I will gather fruits while you cut down dry wood."

Towards noon, both Savitri and Satyavan rested under a shady tree. Savitri was terribly worried. She watched Satyavan very closely.

Suddenly, Satyavan began to feel uncomfortable. "Savitri, I seem to have a head ache" he said. "I am not feeling too good. Let me lie down."

Savitri took Satyavan's head on her lap and began to pray. Within a few minutes, she saw a dark form seated on a buffalo. The person also held a long rope in his hand.

"Who are you?" Savitri asked.

"I am Yama, the God of death. How is it that you are able to see me when I am not visible to any human eye? I have come to take the life of Satyavan. His days on earth are over" said Yama.

Savitri knew at that very moment that Satyavan had died. She got up with

SPOOKY!

Ghost 1 : Why are you giving me sweets?

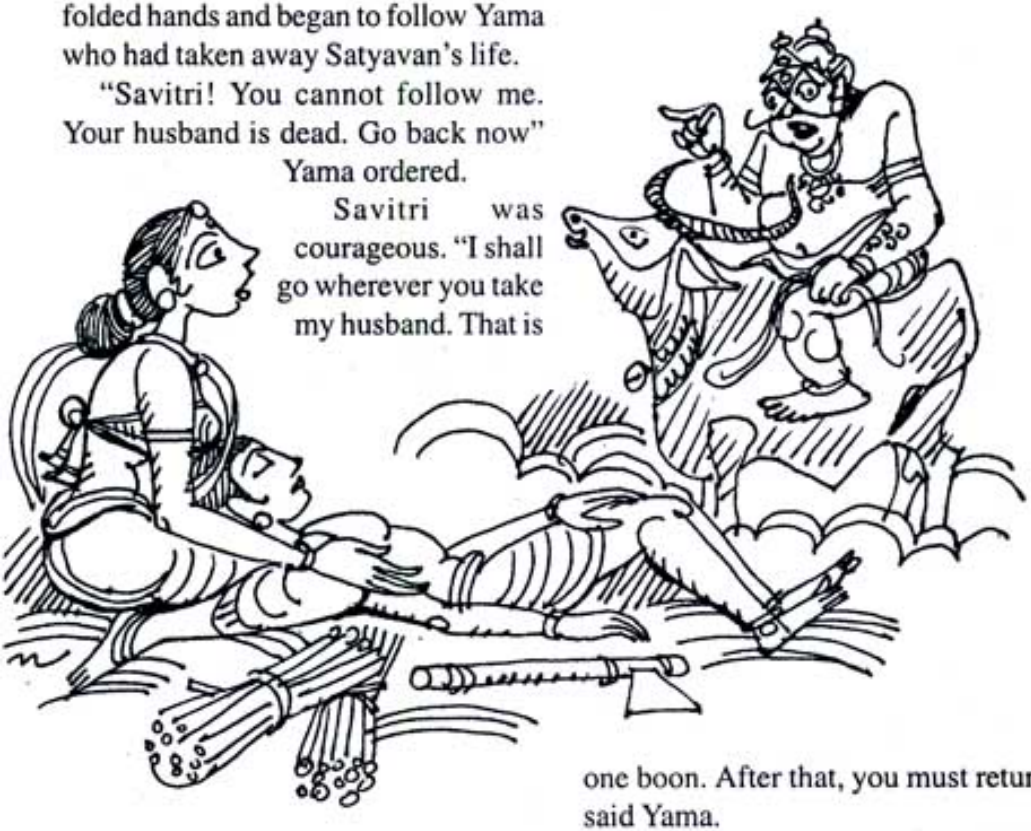
Ghost 2 : Today is my death day!

- S. Dharshana, Std.VI,
Anna Adarsh, Chennai.

folded hands and began to follow Yama who had taken away Satyavan's life.

"Savitri! You cannot follow me. Your husband is dead. Go back now" Yama ordered.

Savitri was courageous. "I shall go wherever you take my husband. That is my resolve. I shall not go back to his parents without him" she said.



Savitri followed the Lord of death. Yama was taken aback by her determination.

"You are adamant my child. What is it that you want? I shall grant you only one boon. After that, you must return" said Yama.

"In that case, let my father-in-law who is blind, be blessed with eye sight."

"So be it" said Yama and began to walk away.

Savitri still followed him. Yama could not understand how she was able to see him. "Let me grant you one more boon" he said hoping that Savitri would

CREATIVE CORNER

A SMALL FLOWER BASKET

Materials required :

A fairly sturdy icecream cup, a circular sheet of wrapping paper whose diameter is about 4 - 5 cm bigger than the diameter of the base of the cup, a thin but strong and flexible stick or a piece of wire, cellotape and small artificial flowers.

Method :

1. Take the stick, (or wire) bend it carefully and

then go away.

"My father-in-law has been living in the forest, having lost his kingdom. Let the kingdom be restored to him" she asked.

"Your wish is granted. Now go back!" said Yama as he ascended the heavens.

Savitri did not turn back. She stood firm and prayed to Savitri Devi. Savitri knew she had the blessings of the Devi. She was clever too. She knew she could win her husband's life back. She was simply determined to do so.

Suddenly, Savitri found herself floating in the air. She was able to follow Yama, even into the heavens.

Yama was perplexed. He spoke sternly. "I shall grant you one last boon. You cannot trespass into my kingdom."

"Oh Lord! I pray to you that I should have many children and live happily with my husband and family," said Savitri.

Yama had lost! He had granted Satyavan's life unknowingly and thoughtlessly through this wish of Savitri's!

"Savitri! You are a wonderful woman. Your devotion to your husband and the elders pleases me immensely. Go back to the forest and you will find Satyavan waking up as though from a sleep. Live happily together." So saying, Yama disappeared.

Savitri reached the spot where Satyavan lay. Satyavan was slowly getting up. "I had a strange dream" he told her.

Both of them went back to the ashram and wonder of wonders, the king had regained his sight. Messengers had come from Salva to take their king and queen back to the capital city.

Just as they were about to leave for Salva, Sage Narada appeared. He narrated to Satyavan and his parents all that had happened and blessed them. Savitri and Satyavan prostrated at his feet to seek his blessings.

"May people remember you forever for your devotion, discipline and determination" blessed the sage.

- Anandhi

---

stick it to the 2 opposite ends of the cup using cellotape.

2. Place the cup on the plain surface of the paper and fix the wrapping paper to the cup with a thin rubber band.

3. Decorate the cup with artificial flowers. (You can also make flowers out of card paper).

4. Your flower basket is ready! You can tie satin ribbons or decorate it with other things.

- Sneh Pradhan, Std. VIII, M.H.M.S., Kolkata.

HERALDING THE NEW YEAR!

Dear Reader...

December is a nice month. The weather is cool and pleasant but not wet. There is a lot of cultural activity. X-mas brings joy and heralding the New Year gives hope and enthusiasm.

But December comes just after the rains and an army of mosquitos have already started invading our homes bringing with them discomfort and illness. Malaria, flu, dingue, madras eye and a long list of viral and bacterial infections follow the rains.

Whenever I see a child down with fever I feel dejected. The smile has disappeared and the liveliness has vanished. What a pity! I would like children to take more care of their health and avoid falling sick.

Simple precautions like wearing cotton socks and full length pajamas or night wear to cover the legs and arms in the evenings and using a mosquito net at night while you sleep will take care of the mosquito problem. Drink only boiled and cooled water; wash in between the toes; soap the under arms and inner thighs during bath; eat only cooked food; avoid eating at unhygienic places; brush your teeth inside and out twice a day; gargle the mouth and throat after each meal with drinking water. These are all very simple and easy to follow health rules. But many neglect these and get infected. Some form of physical exercise lasting for half an hour to forty minutes daily is a must to keep the organs of the body in ship shape condition.

All these may appear to be a long list. But once you make up your mind to make all these a part of your daily routine it will not be troublesome. The best time to commence on these health habits is during the holidays when you can concentrate and by the time school reopens they would have become a part of you, and you will have a health shield protecting you.

So, here's wishing you good health! What else can bring more cheer and happiness during the New Year?

- Editor

Edited, printed and published by K. Rajendran at Bharathan Press on behalf of Bharathan Publications Private Limited. Address : 47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.
Telephones : Editorial : 2345624; Circulation Manager, Subscription and Advertisement : 2345623; Chief Administrative Officer : 2345622; Fax: 2345621
Subscription : (Inland) Annual Rs. 72/-; Half Yearly Rs. 36/-
Overseas (Air Mail) Annual : 24 U.S. Dollars, Srilanka Rs.400/-

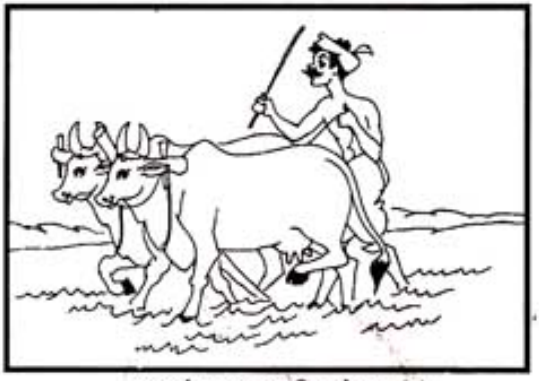
FOR YOU TO COLOUR ...

Teacher : How do you know that birds have a sharp eye sight?

Student : I have never seen a bird with spectacles!

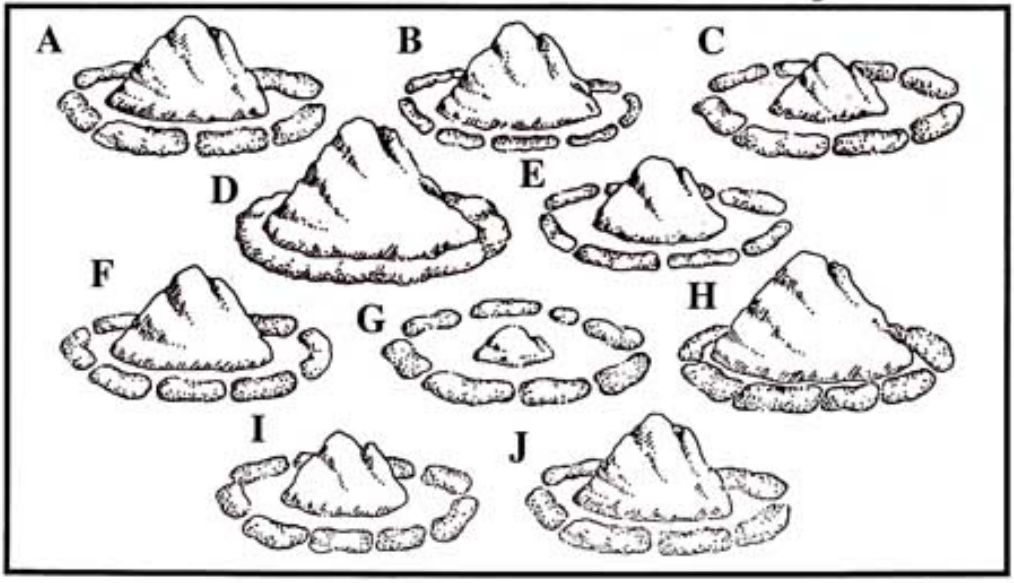
- S. Gayathri Davay, Std.XII,
P.S.K.M.H.S.S., Pudukkottai.

WHAT'S WRONG?



Ans : (a) Cows don't plough fields!
(b) The plough is not in place.

Find two islands that are exactly alike



Answer : A and J

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN / Chief PMG-134 / 2002*
Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP 30 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

With best compliments from...

BSA LADYBIRD

The first designer bike for girls

BSA

Your Best Friend for Life